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County Borough



of Blackburn.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health of Blackburn

AND

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

For the Year 1948.

BY

V. T. THIERENS, M.B., Ch.B. (L'pool), D.P.H. (Cambridge)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

ADMINISTRATIVE TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER,

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CORPORATION ISOLATION HOSPITALS

AND MUNICIPAL MATERNITY HOME,

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

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THOMAS BRIGGS (BLACKBURN) LTD., 73 NORTHGATE.



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Health Committee.

THE MAYOR

(MR. ALDERMAN R. SUGDEN, J.P.)

ALDERMEN—

TOWNSEND, (CHAIRMAN) and CRITCHLEY, J.P.

COUNCILLORS—

BANNISTER

HOLDEN, B., J.P.

Mc.NAMEE

BUCKLEY, J.P.

HINDLE

RAILTON, E.

(VICE-CHAIRMAN)

EDDIE, O.B.E., J.P.

LOMAX

WHITEHEAD, J.P.

DOCTORS :

O'DRISCOLL, D.

SOUTHWORTH, H.

MESDAMES :

AKERS, H.

MATHERS-SMETHURST

SPOKES, M. H.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,

BLACKBURN,

June, 1949.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report upon the Health of the Borough for 1948.

The **Vital Statistics** are, on the whole, satisfactory. The Live Birth rate however (one of 16.3) is lower than that for 1947 (19.1) and that for England and Wales (17.9) and for the 126 Great Towns (20.0).

The death rate (14.3) though lower than that (15.3) for last year is higher than those for the Great Towns (11.6) and for England and Wales (10.8). The chief causes of death are set out in page 15 of this report.

There has again been an improvement in the infantile mortality rate (36.8 as compared with one of 41.0 for 1947) which is better than that (39) for the Great Towns though higher than for England and Wales (34).

There were six **deaths** in connection with **child birth**. The total maternal mortality figure (3.2) may appear to be on the high side but, if allowance be made for the deaths not directly attributable to childbirth (3), the true maternal mortality is (1.6).

The position as regards infectious disease incidence was satisfactory particularly so as regards **diphtheria** of which there were only two clinical cases (5 in 1947). There were 213 notifications of **scarlet fever** (159 in 1947).

The **National Health Service** Act has not eased our difficulties as regards bed provision for cases of **Infectious disease**. In fact since July 5th the calls on Park Lee have been more difficult to meet than during any period since I have been in Blackburn. Shortage of nursing staff is, at present, the core of the problem. This might, in large measure, be neutralised by the provision of additional cubicle accommodation. The Local Hospital Management Committee is aware of this deficiency.

Health Visitors were again in very short supply but I anticipate a satisfactory flow through the Department as a result of a bursary system whereby

the Authority accepts financial responsibility for the training, and maintenance during training, of student health visitors who undertake to serve the Authority for 18 months on satisfactory completion of an approved course.

Increased attendances at **Child Welfare Centres** necessitated the opening of a new centre at Church of the Saviour Institute. There is also an urgent need of an additional centre to cover the Little Harwood District and the new housing estate which is being developed in Philips Road. Mothers in these areas are very badly served as the nearest centres to them are the Cornelian and Hozier Street Clinics. In lesser degree an additional centre should be considered for the new estate in the Audley district. Unfortunately suitable premises are hard to come by and I see no way of serving Little Harwood and Philips Road other than by means of some ad hoc provision.

Existing Clinics, housed for the most part in Church halls, etc., are improvised and make-shift and far from suitable for child health purposes.

A well-laid out Clinic should provide facilities for both quiet consultation with the Doctor and Nurse and bright and comfortable waiting accommodation, adequate facilities for storing prams under cover, for cookery demonstration, instruction in simple garment making, etc.

Our present centres offer none of these facilities and, in addition, certain of them are cramped and depressing and offer little in the way of comfort or amenity either to the mothers who attend them or to the staff.

During the year the committee decided to acquire four pre-fabricated **Day Nurseries**. They are to be erected on sites in Stancliffe Street, (this nursery is, at the time of writing this report, in the course of erection) Lincoln Street, Gladstone Street and Albion Street respectively.

A large private dwelling, Church Hill House, in the Little Harwood district, has been acquired and is now undergoing conversion. Unlike the bulk of dwelling-houses this place lends itself admirably to conversion and, when adapted, will make an easily run nursery. It should be ready for occupation in two or three months time. These premises have the added advantage, if and when they become redundant for nursery purposes, of ready adaptation for use as a Maternity and Child Welfare or even a subsidiary Health Centre, and would thus meet the difficulty of Centre provision for Little Harwood and Philips Road.

Before closing this introduction I would refer, in brief, to the effects of the **National Health Service Act** upon the administration of the Department.

It should not be thought that the transfer of the Local Health Authority's Hospitals to the Regional Board has in any way lessened the work of the Department ; the reverse is the case.

The loss of hospital administration has been more than offset by the additional duties placed upon the Authority by Part III of the Act and the requirements dealing with lunacy and mental deficiency. Although these services have entailed a considerable expenditure of administrative oversight and some degree of Departmental re-organisation they have been merged into the general organisation without difficulty and now function smoothly. There is, however, still scope for expansion of the new services and they are being accordingly extended in the light of experience.

Difficulties were anticipated in the care of the mentally afflicted, a service entirely new to the Health Department. Surprisingly few "snags" have been encountered and after a preliminary "sorting out" of transferred records the service has functioned remarkably smoothly.

A detailed description of the working of the National Health Service Act as it affects the Authority, is set out in the body of the Report.

Miss E. Critchley, **Matron of Park Lee** since 1925, retired in April, 1948. Efficient and loyal herself she expected the same qualities from her staff. By personal example, cheerfulness in face of difficulty, and an impartial disciplinary code tempered by a touch of humour, she got the best out of her colleagues. She will always be remembered with kindly regard both by her associates at Park Lee and the many patients to whom she devoted herself unsparingly and selflessly.

I wish her health and happiness in her well-earned retirement.

I again acknowledge my gratitude to my departmental colleagues. They have all done their job efficiently, have pulled together as a happy team and have answered all calls, sometimes exacting ones, with ungrudging cheerfulness.

I am particularly indebted to Dr. Mountain (who returned from service in April of this year), and to Messrs. Hodson, Addy and Marsden whose duties, more so than those of other members of the staff, bring them into frequent and confidential contact with myself, for their keenness and loyalty.

It is again my pleasant duty to thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your invariable courtesy and support. The interest and encouragement which you have afforded the Department have been much appreciated by its members and have promoted a happy administration.

Yours truly,

V. T. THIERENS.

PART I.

Vital Statistics
and
Social Conditions.

Births :—The births registered were 1,819, of which 82 were illegitimate. The total male births were 959, and female 860. The birth rate was 16·3 per 1,000, compared with 17·9 for England and Wales, and 20·0 for the 126 great towns.

TABLE I.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Death Rate.</i>	<i>Natural Increase</i> <i>1,000 Population.</i>
1928	13·8	12·2	1·5
1929	12·4	14·9	—2·5
1930	12·7	12·8	—0·08
1931	12·4	12·8	—0·4
1932	12·6	12·6	0·008
1933	12·0	14·4	—2·4
1934	12·0	13·1	—1·1
1935	12·0	14·5	—2·5
1936	11·7	14·3	—2·6
1937	11·7	15·2	—3·5
1938	12·2	14·6	—2·4
1939	12·1	15·5	—3·4
1940	12·0	17·2	—5·2
1941	12·6	14·5	—1·9
1942	14·3	14·9	—0·6
1943	15·2	15·9	—0·7
1944	16·7	14·1	2·6
1945	14·4	15·2	—0·8
1946	16·7	14·8	1·9
1947	19·1	15·3	3·8
1948	16·3	14·3	2·0

Marriages.—There were 1,021 marriages solemnized during the year as follows : Established Churches, 432 ; other places of worship, 362 ; Register Office, 227.

TABLE 2.

DEATH RATES IN WARDS FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS.

<i>Ward.</i>	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	<i>Av. for 6 Years</i>
St. Stephen's ..	13.8	13.5	13.9	12.8	14.4	15.6	14.0
Trinity	18.4	13.4	15.0	14.5	13.9	12.0	14.5
St. Michael's ..	17.5	14.0	17.8	18.3	14.5	15.9	16.3
St. John's	17.4	10.8	14.5	12.4	17.2	13.8	14.1
St. Silas's	18.7	18.9	18.3	18.9	18.3	14.8	17.9
St. Paul's	16.4	14.4	14.8	16.9	17.0	16.0	15.9
St. Peter's	15.4	12.3	16.3	14.2	16.5	10.6	14.2
St. Mary's	17.2	16.0	13.9	11.1	12.9	9.6	13.5
St. Matthew's ..	18.2	13.8	15.9	12.4	14.7	13.2	14.7
St. Thomas's ..	13.2	13.0	13.7	15.6	14.8	12.6	13.8
Park	15.1	15.3	15.1	16.9	14.4	16.2	15.5
St. Luke's	13.4	15.8	12.5	13.4	13.1	14.4	15.8
St. Mark's	15.4	13.0	14.1	15.4	14.2	15.4	14.6
St. Andrew's ..	14.8	13.4	16.8	16.3	16.8	14.5	15.4
Borough	15.9	14.1	15.2	14.8	15.3	14.3	14.9

TABLE 3.
VITAL STATISTICS DURING 1948.

WARD	Popu- lation	Births	Deaths	Birth- Rate	Death- Rate	Deaths under one year per 1000 Births	Death- rate from six Zymotic Diseases excluding Diarrhoea	Death- rate from Diar- rhoea	Death- rate from Bron- chitis & Pneu- monia	Death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death-rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis
ST. STEPHEN'S ...	12026	203	188	16.8	15.6	(9) 44	0.00	0.08	1.16	0.58	0.08
TRINITY ...	7301	110	98	15.0	12.0	(7) 63	0.00	0.00	2.05	0.41	0.00
ST. MICHAEL'S ...	7817	133	125	17.0	15.9	(5) 38	0.00	0.25	0.89	0.25	0.00
ST. JOHN'S...	5929	88	82	14.8	13.8	(2) 23	0.00	0.00	1.32	0.50	0.00
ST. SILAS'S...	8284	88	123	10.6	14.8	(1) 11	0.00	0.12	1.45	0.36	0.00
ST. PAUL'S...	8118	142	130	17.5	16.0	(4) 28	0.00	0.00	1.85	0.12	0.00
ST. PETER'S ...	5652	105	60	18.6	10.6	(4) 38	0.00	0.00	1.94	0.00	0.00
ST. MARY'S ...	4689	70	45	14.9	9.6	(3) 43	0.00	0.21	1.07	0.43	0.00
ST. MATTHEW'S...	7798	131	103	16.8	13.2	(8) 61	0.00	0.00	0.89	0.13	0.12
ST. THOMAS'S ...	10239	181	129	17.7	12.6	(7) 39	0.00	0.00	1.07	0.58	0.09
PARK ...	8241	140	134	16.9	16.2	(5) 36	0.12	0.00	1.94	0.97	0.24
ST. LUKE'S ...	6667	111	96	16.7	14.4	(5) 45	0.29	0.00	1.80	0.45	0.15
ST. MARK'S ...	9076	148	140	16.3	15.4	(2) 14	0.00	0.00	1.87	0.44	0.00
ST. ANDREW'S ...	9823	169	143	17.2	14.5	(5) 29	0.20	0.00	1.22	0.71	0.10
BOROUGH ...	111660	1819	1596	16.3	14.3	(67) 36	0.04	0.04	1.45	0.45	0.06

The figures in () are actual number of deaths occurred.

TABLE 4.

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1948 CLASSIFIED BY AGE AND CAUSE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District.												Total Deaths whether of "Resi- dents" or "non- Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 35 years.	35 and under 45 years.	45 and under 55 years.	55 and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Enteric Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small Pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Scarlet Fever	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Whooping Cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Tetanus .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	50	..	1	..	..	5	12	11	13	3	5	23
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases	6	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease	267	..	..	..	..	..	1	17	33	72	144	168
Acute Rheumatism and Rheumatic Fever	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Other Forms of Meningitis (not T.B.) .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Poliomyelitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Locomotor Ataxy	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
General Paralysis of the Insane ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	63	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	1	12	46	44
Other Diseases of the Nervous Sys'm ..	29	..	..	..	2	2	1	4	1	4	15	15
Senile Decay	69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69	36
Organic Heart Disease	289	..	..	..	1	3	..	7	15	35	228	118
Arterio-Sclerosis	226	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	31	190	141
Aneurism .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	85	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	7	17	59	31
Bronchitis, Acute	10	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	..
Bronchitis, Chronic	88	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	9	21	53	20
Influenzal Broncho Pneumonia ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia (other forms)	74	8	2	..	..	3	2	2	7	10	40	39
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	25	3	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	7	5	12
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	5	3	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	5
Appendicitis, Typhlitis and Peri- tonitis	8	..	..	..	3	..	1	2	1	1	..	15
Cirrhosis of the Liver	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	2
Alcoholism .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of the Digestive Sys'm ..	43	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	14	24	55
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	49	4	..	1	2	..	1	..	6	8	25	26	
Other Diseases of the Urinary Sys'm ..	33	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	2	25	30
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Parturition	4	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	5
Congenital Debility and Malforma'n ..	17	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Premature Birth	21	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Venereal Diseases	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	..	..	4
Other Diseases of the Reproductive System (Non-Malignant)	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	5
Violent Deaths (excluding Suicide)..	44	3	..	3	2	3	2	3	3	7	18	39	
Suicide	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	2	6	3
All other Defined Diseases	47	1	..	2	..	..	3	2	4	11	24	29
Diseases Ill-defined or unknown....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All Causes ..	1596	67	4	8	10	21	33	72	127	263	991	931	

Deaths :—The total number of deaths registered was 1,596, of which 781 were males and 815 were females. The death rate was 14·3 per 1,000, compared with 10·8 for England and Wales and 11·6 for the 126 great towns.

CAUSES OF DEATH

During 1948 the chief causes of death were as under :—

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Deaths per 1,000</i>
Organic Heart Disease	289	2·59
Pneumonia	74	0·66
Cancer	267	2·39
Bronchitis	98	0·88
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	50	0·45

Diseases of bodily systems and group diseases to which death was assigned are as follows :—

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	<i>Deaths per 1,000</i>
Respiratory System (Non-Tubercular) ...	197	1·76
Circulatory System	600	5·37
Nervous System (Non-Tubercular)	95	0·85
Cancer	267	2·39
Tuberculosis (all forms)	57	0·51
Renal System (Non-Tubercular)	82	0·73
Infectious Diseases	5	—
Digestive Diseases	59	0·53
Diseases of Babyhood (under one year) ..	38	0·34
Diseases associated with Maternity . .	4	—

TABLE 5.

SITES OF FATAL CANCER.

<i>Site.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Tongue and Mouth	2	—	2
Oesophagus	11	5	16
Other parts of the Buccal Cavity	2	1	3
Stomach	23	27	50
Liver	3	4	7
Bowel and Abdominal ..	14	19	33
Rectum	9	11	20
Bladder	8	2	10
Larynx	5	2	7
Uterus	—	20	20
Other female genital organs	—	19	19
Breast	—	29	29
Pancreas	2	5	7
Kidney	—	—	—
Skin	—	1	1
Lung	27	2	29
Male Genital Organs ..	5	—	5
Gall Bladder	1	—	1
Prostate	8	—	8
Others	—	—	—
TOTAL	120	147	267

TREATMENT OF CANCER.

A Clinic is conducted each week at the Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary by a Radiotherapist from the staff of the Christie Hospital, Manchester. Patients are examined by him in collaboration with members of the Medical and Surgical Staff, and if treatment by radium or deep X-ray is decided upon arrangements are made for the patient to receive treatment either at the Christie Hospital, Manchester, or the Victoria Hospital, Burnley, which is now a Sub-Centre for that purpose. In accordance with a decision of the authorities at the Christie Hospital, all treatment of cancer by radium or X-ray therapy is now concentrated on the Centre or the Sub-Centre. All patients examined at the Radiotherapy Clinic are carefully followed up through the machinery provided by the Records Department at the Christie Hospital.

PART II.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply. The town is supplied with an upland surface water, the quantity of which is fully adequate for the population served.

Bacteriological examination of both raw water entering the reservoirs and of water leaving the reservoirs after treatment with chlorine are made each week. Five hundred and thirty four examinations were made during 1948, and it was on the rarest occasion only that water leaving the reservoirs was found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

Fourteen samples of water were chemically examined during the year and gave "Action on Lead (24 hours)" figures ranging from 0.06 minimum to 1.5 maximum. The average "Action on lead" figure was 0.34. In all other respects the results were satisfactory.

Approximately 36,500 dwelling houses, housing a population of 111,000, are supplied from public water mains. There are no standpipes.

Sixty four dwelling houses (including 23 farms and small holdings) are without a main supply. These are supplied by wells and springs.

HOUSING

(a) GENERAL.

Houses built during 1948 :

(i) By Corporation

Temporary Bungalows	...	...	...	...	...	55
Permanent Houses	...	...	...	...	...	142

(ii) By private enterprise

New houses	...	...	...	...	...	19
Total						216

(b) STATISTICS :

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	1785
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	7388
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...	1615

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	1068
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

A. *Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	259
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ...	263
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	57

B. *Proceedings Under Public Health Acts :*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	387
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ...	255
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	10

C. Proceedings Under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

D. Proceedings Under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

Particulars regarding the control of infectious disease in, and the water supply of, local schools, have been fully described in previous reports.

THE TESTING OF DRAINS.

No. of Smoke Tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	188
No. of Water Tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	91
No. of Colour Tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
No. of Olfactory Tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Breaking Down	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Total number of Defects found	..	..	..	..	..	..	213
No. of Informal Notices Served	..	..	..	..	..	..	175
No. of Formal Notices Served	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
No. of Defects Remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	221

Houses-Let-In-Lodgings.—The number (26) of houses-let-in-lodgings is less than in 1947, when 31 such houses were on the register. These houses provide 147 rooms, of which 98% were occupied, compared with 175 rooms and 96% occupancy in 1947.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—The appended Tables classify, in tabular form, inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year, their findings and action taken in respect thereof.

INSPECTION WORK.

TABLE 6.

DETAILS OF INSPECTION WORK :

No. of complaints made by inhabitants to the Health Department	.....	1135
No. of complaints made by inhabitants direct to the District Inspector		155
No. of complaints referred from other Departments	..... ..	398
No. of premises where defects or contraventions were found	..... ..	1012
No. of defects found	..... ..	5446
No. of premises where no defects or contraventions were found	... ..	123
Total number of Defects found	... ..	5446
Total number of Defects remedied	... ..	5257
No. of Informal Notices served	... ..	1613
No. of Formal Notices served	... ..	646
No. of Informal Notices complied with	... ..	1068
No. of Formal Notices complied with	... ..	585
No. of Interviews	... ..	470

Particulars of sanitary improvements made and defects remedied under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors are contained in the following Table :—

TABLE 7.

DWELLING HOUSES.

Water supply improved	40
Damp and defective house, walls, roofs, etc.....	585
Defective gutters and down-spouts.....	720
Cleansing dirty floors	14
" " woodwork	10
" " dirty yards.....	15
" " bedding	10
Defective sink waste pipes	114
Defective dishstones.....	12
Waste pipes disconnected from drains.....	5
Yards and passages reflagged	24
Yards badly paved or flagged....	27
Insufficient lighting and ventilation of rooms	3
Defective chimney flues	72
Window sash frames, cords, internal walls, ceilings, floors, stairs, fireplaces, doors, cupboards to be repaired.....	1769
Dangerous and defective chimney stacks	108
Fractured internal walls	14
Gas pipes repaired	6
Water pipes repaired	109
Yard division walls	71
Defective and bulging external walls	136
Absence of handrails to staircases	56
Outbuildings repaired.....	142
Washing Accommodation provided	87
Cooking Accommodation provided	33
Verminous premises	11
Defective Sinks.....	38

DRAINS.

Re-layed or repaired	81
Cleansed.....	41
Soil pipes repaired.....	10
Self-cleansing gullies provided ..	34

WATER CLOSETS.

Cleansed or repaired	136
Cisterns and flushing fittings repaired.....	87
Provided in substitution of slop-water closets on notice from the department	15

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

Cleansed and limewashed.....	12
Other nuisances abated	0

OFFENSIVE ACCUMULATIONS.

Removed	64
---------------	----

ANIMALS SO KEPT AS TO BE

A NUISANCE

Nuisances abated.....	2
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SLOP-WATER CLOSETS.

Nuisances abated.....	16
Converted to W.C.'s voluntarily by owners	42

ASH RECEPTACLES.

Repaired	0
Portable receptacles provided...	486

REFERRED TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

Street Gullies, etc., to Borough Engineer.....	7
Choked Sewers to Borough Engineer.....	10
Dangerous Walls, etc., to Borough Engineer.....	25
Wastage of Water to Water Engineer	14
Defective Water Mains to Water Engineer	3
Gas Leakages to Gas Engineer.....	5
Accumulations of Refuse in Back Streets to Borough Engineer	13

Tents, Sheds, Caravans, Etc. At the end of the year there were 23 caravans in the Borough used as human habitations.

Constant sanitary survey is necessary if the caravans and their surroundings are to be kept in a cleanly and sanitary state.

The general cleanliness of the travelling vans which came to Blackburn during the Easter holidays was satisfactory.

The bye-laws in force are adequate.

Offensive Trades. The number of offensive trades within the Borough is sixteen. These consist of 8 Bone and Rag and Bone Dealing, 3 Fat Extracting, or Fat Rendering, 1 Gut Scraping and 4 Tripe Boiling. There are also two Knackers Yards. All these are visited regularly.

Insanitary Dwellings. During the year 4 houses were closed pursuant to Section 111 of the Blackburn Improvement Act, 1882. This number is but a very small fraction of houses, incapable of being made fit at a reasonable expense, which should be dealt with by way of closure and demolition.

Although Blackburn, as a result of a Local Act of almost a century ago (the Blackburn Improvement Act, 1854), occupies probably a happier housing position than do many industrial areas, the situation is far from rosy. Many areas are now earmarked for clearance but cannot be dealt with due to the shortage of alternative accommodation.

The Local Authority is faced with difficulties which time alone can overcome. The war both completely held up the building programme and, due to shortages of labour and material, led to rapid deterioration of much decadent property. Secondly, it witnessed a large increase in both marriage and birth rates. In consequence we are now faced with an inadequate supply of houses, an increased number of family units living with relatives or in lodgings, more overcrowding, and a steadily growing number of householders occupying premises which lack the ordinary amenities and present numerous structural and sanitary defects, and which would be dealt with either by way

of clearance or as individual dwellings were alternative accommodation available. Although the Housing Committee are dealing with the problem forcefully and realistically there is so much leeway to be made up that some considerable time must elapse before rehousing can be effected on an appreciable scale.

Verminous Premises and Persons. During the year 54 private dwelling houses comprising 194 rooms have been disinfested by officers of the Health Department. In only one case was re-treatment necessary. The insecticide used was a product containing D.D.T. and pyrethrum, this combination having a quick "knock-out" effect plus a residual toxicity.

The treatment of scabies has again been carried out at the Clinic at Blakey Moor.

Careful watch for scabies is kept at the School Clinics and during medical inspections at Schools. Whenever a case is found and treated, the other members of the family are invited to attend for a precautionary treatment. Local medical practitioners make full use of the Clinic by sending for treatment cases which they find in the course of their practice.

98 persons received two treatments comprising ... 196 baths.

2 persons received one treatment comprising ... 2 baths.

Total number 198 baths.

These figures show a great reduction in the number of cases treated compared with 1947 when the total baths was 340.

In addition 18 persons were cleansed for body lice.

Common Lodging Houses. During the year no new applications for Registration were received, so that at the end of the year there were still seven Common Lodging Houses in the Borough providing accommodation for 226 male persons.

All Common Lodging Houses are visited weekly and the standard of cleanliness at the majority is satisfactory. The Bye-laws relating to these premises are adequate.

Canal Boats. The Corporation have carried out, within their District, the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Part X).

- (1). An Inspector appointed for the execution of the Act was maintained in Office throughout the year.
- (2). Twenty-four Canal Boats were examined and reported upon.
- (3). On two canal boats three infringements of the Act came under the notice of the Inspector, namely :
 - (a) The Certificate of Registration was not in order.
 - (b) Painting of the Cabin was overdue.
 - (c) The Lettering, Marking and Numbering of the Boat was not legible.
- (4). There was no occasion to take legal proceedings.
- (5). Two written intimations were served on the owners of Canal Boats relative to infringements in item 3.
- (6). No cases of Infectious Disease were met with.
- (7). There was no detention of boats for cleansing and disinfection.
- (8).
 - (a) Four new boats were Registered during the year.
 - (b) At the end of the year there were twenty-six boats on the Register which were in use or available.

Smoke Abatement. During 1948 it has been possible to devote more time to the taking of smoke observations. This has confirmed the statement in my last Annual Report that the position regarding smoke abatement is becoming progressively worse.

During the year, 77 smoke observations have been made. By resolution of the Council emission of black smoke is permitted for not more than 4 minutes during any one hour in the case of one boiler, 5 minutes for 2 boilers, 6 minutes for 3 boilers, and 7 minutes for 4 or more boilers.

In 18 cases black smoke was emitted for a much longer period than that permitted. Four of the worst offending chimneys were reported to the Ministry of Fuel and Power who closely co-operated with the Local Authority and arranged for one of their officials to visit each of the four factories concerned. This resulted in a great improvement.

The managements of the other 14 factories were interviewed, and advice given to the engineers in charge.

Factories Act, 1937, and the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1938.

It is the duty of the Local Authority to enforce the provisions of the Act and Regulations dealing with sanitary conveniences in all factories and, in the case of factories where mechanical power is not used, the provisions dealing with cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors.

There are on the Register 833 power factories and 233 non-power factories. During the year 60 factories have been inspected. Where contraventions of the Act were found, the occupiers of the factories concerned were notified, and requested to take appropriate steps to comply with the Act. As the position regarding building labour and materials has not improved a considerable period has to be allowed for the carrying out of alterations.

Table No. 8 sets out in detail the particulars of inspections made and of the contraventions found and dealt with.

Table 8.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE					Power	Non-Power
Number of factories on the Register	...	...	...	...	833	233
Number of factories inspected	...	...	...	...	55	5
Number of re-visits to factories	...	...	...	...	687	161
Number of factories found satisfactory	...	...	...	...	16	1
Number of factories where contraventions were found	...	...	...	...	39	4
Number of factories where contraventions have been remedied	...	...	...	...	75	10

CONTRAVENTIONS OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937
AND
THE SANITARY ACCOMMODATION REGULATIONS, 1938

	Number of Contraventions found	Number of Contraventions remedied
<hr/>		
Sect. 1. CLEANLINESS.		
(a) Accumulations of refuse	0	0
(b) Walls, partitions, ceilings not clean ...	1	5
Sect. 3. TEMPERATURE.		
Effective provision not made for maintaining a reasonable temperature	1	0
Sect. 7. SANITARY CONVENIENCES.		
Absence of sanitary conveniences	2	7
Sufficient sanitary conveniences not provided	1	6
Suitable sanitary conveniences not provided	1	0
Separate sanitary conveniences not provided for each sex	8	3
Sanitary conveniences not effectively lighted	28	61
Sanitary conveniences not maintained in proper repair	6	21
Sanitary conveniences not kept clean	8	37
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION REGULATIONS, 1938.		
Sanitary conveniences not ventilated	4	16
Sanitary conveniences in direct communication with the workroom	5	22
Sanitary conveniences not provided with proper doors	3	9
Sanitary conveniences not provided with proper fasteners	17	29
Sanitary conveniences not conveniently accessible	2	0
Sanitary conveniences not provided with separate approaches	0	0
Sanitary conveniences not effectively screened	5	5
Sanitary conveniences not indicated with sex of users	3	3
Insanitary urinals	1	5
TOTAL	96	229

Details of Inspections.

Applications for Corporation Houses	406
Building Licences and Certificates	290
Canal Boats	19
Choked Sewers or Street Gullies	18
Choked or Defective Drains	225
Common yards, passages, etc.	38
Dirty and Verminous Premises	210
Dustbins and Ashpits.....	253
Food Poisoning	25
Food Shops	634
Infectious Diseases	259
Insufficient Water Supplies	683
Inspections of Dwelling Houses	972
Interviews	470
Knackers Yards	48
Licensed Premises	31
Lodging Houses, Common.....	238
Lodging Houses, Let in	638
Miscellaneous	724
Offensive Trades	50
Outworkers Premises	40
Piggeries	3
Schools	11
Smallpox Contacts	283
Smoke Observations	77
Stables	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds	87
Theatres and Cinemas	56
Works in Progress, Dwelling Houses	6050
Works in Progress, Other Premises	7
Inspections of other premises	47
Visits re Certificates under Rent Restrictions Act	6

Rodent Control.

The control of rat and mouse infestations has been effectively maintained during the year and a systematic search continued in a similar manner to that inaugurated during 1946-47 whereby the whole of the Borough was surveyed and treated for rodent infestations.

A significant feature following the surveys has been the increase in the number of complaints and requests for disinfection, practically twice as many

as last year, although approximately a third of the complaints were unfounded when investigated.

Table No. 9 sets out particulars relative to complaints and requests for disinfection.

Table 9.

Complaints and requests for disinfection investigated	342
Rat infestations proved and treated	106
Mouse infestations proved and treated	107
Complaints and requests for disinfections proved negative	129

The second survey of the Borough was completed during the year and good progress made with the third survey. Although the number of Rodent Operators was reduced from five to four, this has not affected the survey, owing to the fact that a number of areas in the town have, in the past years, shown no evidence of rat infestation and require little attention.

Table No. 10 sets out details of the survey.

Table 10.

Premises surveyed	15,143
Rat infestations found and treated	98
Mice infestations found and treated	35

Table No. 11 sets out the figures relative to treatments indicated in the foregoing tables.

Table 11.

Total premises infested and treated as a result of complaints, requests and surveys	346
Estimated number of rats killed	3,124
Estimated number of mice killed	2,113

As a routine measure the rodent operators report all rat infestations indicating the possibility of egress from drains and the following figures are relative to drains found defective which were either repaired or relaid under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

Defective drains at business premises	23
Defective drains at house premises	31

All streams and the rivers Blakewater and Darwen received treatments in the Spring and Autumn, and a complete treatment was given to those portions of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal situate in the Borough. Business premises liable to re-infestation, owing to the nature of their work, are surveyed, and if necessary, treated every three to four months.

Sewer Infestations.

The control of rat infestations in the sewers is exercised by the Borough Engineer, and in June and December respectively, maintenance treatments were carried out under his supervision. In accordance with recommendations made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Infestation Control Division, no calculation is made of the poison takes and the effectiveness of the treatment and the degree of infestation is based on the amount of prebait taken at each manhole. Although a special check was not maintained at Witton and Samlesbury sewage works, 124 bodies were picked up during the June treatment and 78 during the December treatment, but those figures can represent only a small portion of the actual number of rats destroyed in the sewers.

PART III.

Food Supply.

ICE CREAM.

The number of premises registered for the manufacture, sale or storage for sale of ice-cream has again shown an increase. During 1948, fifty-one applications were received for registration, the majority for the purpose of sale, or storage for sale of ice-cream. Three premises were registered during the year for manufacture, bringing the total number of manufacturers up to sixty-one. Many of these manufacturers are not, at the present time, using their premises for the manufacture of ice-cream, but have expressed a desire to remain on the Register. Some of the applications mentioned above are held in abeyance pending alterations to premises, or other matters which require attention. At the end of 1948 the Register of these premises showed the following alterations :

Number on Register 31st December, 1947	97
Number of registrations discontinued during 1948	19
Number of premises registered during 1948	42
Total on Register 31st December, 1948	120

I am indebted to Dr. M. S. Spink, for the following report on the examination of ice-cream samples during the year :—

“ During 1948, in the months of April to November, 134 samples of ice-cream were received, examined, and graded according to the standards proposed tentatively by the Ministry of Health, with an average grade of 2.2 per sample. The producers or retailers involved in this series total 47.

11 samples were made by the cold mix method and the average grade of these was 1.65.

The great bulk, 123 samples were made by hot mix methods, and averaged a grade of 2.25. The number of cold mix samples was too small to permit a conclusion unfavourable to hot mix methods to be drawn.

This is shown by the number of hot-mix samples that attained high grade in the case of the larger makers that were frequently examined. Of these 13, six produced a cream that was at least average or higher—53 samples at an average grade of 1.7. The products of these six makers 44 times fell into the higher grades (1 and 2) and only 9 times in the lower (3 and 4). Fourteen of the makers who were so small in scale as to be sampled only once or twice were at or above average ; no fewer than ten giving samples of the highest grade only. This shows once again, that the small maker can be just as trustworthy as the

larger manufacturer and that the personal factor is the most important. No significant difference in the gradings seemed to be induced by the influence of hot weather.

Attention is again drawn to the value of supplementing the standard reduction test with the B. Coli test. Ten out of 86 (11%) of samples graded high (1 or 2) showed B. Coli in 3 tubes whereas 17 out of the 48 (36%) placed in the lower grades (3 or 4) satisfied the B. Coli test.

The first observation shows that the reduction test is insufficient to guarantee ice-creams free of intestinal type organisms—which, in the writer's opinion ought *never* to be found in this commodity. The writer would not however, attempt to justify any deduction from the second observation, except that absence of B. Coli, is not alone the only merit required for high grading.

It is worthy of note that since the Aberystwyth outbreak of ice-cream-borne enteric fever, stimulated public notice, and government action in publishing provisional regulations and bacterial standards, no such further occurrence has taken place.

The making of ice-cream is an expanding industry, and the product takes an ever-growing place in the diet of the population ; therefore it is of importance to have the satisfactory assurance of increasing reliability and diminishing incidence of disease due to ice-cream. It is a pleasure to record that within this area, in 1948, although two or three very small outbreaks of mild food-poisoning, chiefly due to the Staphylococcus, have been investigated, no disease whatever has been attributable to ice-cream."

Monthly Report on Samples during the Year, 1948.

MONTH.	Number Obtained	Groups 1 and 2	Groups 3 and 4	Per cent passed.	Per cent failed.
April	11	10	1	90.90	9.09
May	6	6	—	100	—
June	26	18	8	69.23	30.77
July	24	11	13	45.83	54.17
August	17	9	8	52.94	47.06
September	21	10	11	47.62	52.38
October	23	17	6	73.91	26.08
November	6	5	1	83.33	16.66
TOTAL	134	86	48	64.17	35.83

All samples were examined for the presence of coliform organisms. The results of these tests are set out below.

MONTH	Number Tested	Number Passed	Number Failed	Per cent passed	Per cent failed
April	11	11	—	100	—
May	6	6	—	100	—
June	26	16	10	61.53	38.47
July	24	20	4	83.33	16.67
August	17	9	8	52.94	47.06
September	21	11	10	52.38	47.62
October	23	12	11	52.17	47.82
November	6	4	2	66.66	33.33
TOTAL	134	45	45	66.41	32.50

Results of bacteriological examinations throughout the year have shown an improvement in the grading of samples. The number of samples containing coliform organisms have also been reduced. These improvements are probably the result of the use of more hygienic methods of production following inspection and supervision, the cool summer weather, improved methods of collection, and more speedy transport of samples to the laboratory.

During the year structural repairs have been done at several of the premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream. Details of this work are given below. In some instances the conditions existing at the premises were such that the occupier could not satisfactorily comply with the requirements of recent legislation, which require the installation of special apparatus. The occupiers of such premises were advised to use the complete cold mix. This obviates the fitting and maintaining of expensive equipment.

Five hundred and ninety one visits were made to registered premises during the year. Twenty-three verbal notices were given, and letters sent to occupiers whose premises failed to comply with the Regulations.

Attention has been paid to the hygiene of preparing rooms, and the following work has been done during the year.

2 new ice-cream preparing rooms constructed.

5 ice-cream preparing rooms structurally improved.

Six occupiers of premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream are now using a complete cold mix.

One and a half gallons of ice-cream were destroyed, and four gallons re-heat treated after the temperature had been raised during storage above that allowed by the Regulations.

Two "Lolly Ices" have been bacteriologically examined and reported satisfactory.

Ice-Cream Chemical Examination. Sixteen samples were taken and examined by the Public Analyst. The fat content varied in the samples from 1% to 11.7%. Average fat for the samples was 4.31%.

Cowsheds. There are fifty-five farms in the County Borough of Blackburn, at fifty-one of which milk is produced, and the remaining four carry on various other branches of farming work. At the end of 1948 the Register of cowsheds showed the following alterations :

Number on Register, 31st December, 1947.....	50
Number of registrations cancelled during 1948.....	0
Number of new registrations during 1948.....	1
Total on Register, 31st December, 1948.....	51

271 visits were made to farms during the year, in connection with the enforcement of legislation controlling the production of milk, 58 verbal notices were given and three letters sent to producers who failed to comply with the Milk and Dairies Orders.

Cowsheds—Work Done.

New Cowshed constructed.....	1
Cowsheds re-conditioned	3
Standing divisions repaired or renewed	6
Standing floors repaired	3
Cowsheds limewashed after informal notice	23
Roofs repaired	2
Cowshed floors repaired.....	5
Cowshed ceilings repaired	2
Farm yards resurfaced or repaired	2
Cowshed floors cleansed.....	5
Farm dairies improved or repaired	6
Mains water provided	1
Ventilation improved	1
Means of lighting (natural and artificial) improved....	5

Dairies.

Number of premises on Register, 31st December, 1947.	11
Number of registrations cancelled during 1948.....	2
Number of premises registered during 1948.....	2
Total on Register, 31st December, 1948.....	11

Dairies—Work done.

New Dairy constructed.

Structural improvement carried out at two dairies.

Two dairies cleansed by lime washing.

282 visits were made to dairies in 1948 for the purpose of inspection and supervision. 37 verbal notices were given and 2 letters sent in connection with contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Orders.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936-1946. The special grades of milk which are produced and sold in Blackburn consist of Tuberculin Tested, Accredited, and Pasteurised. In addition a large amount of Sterilised Milk is sold in the Borough. All producers of the foregoing grades of milk are required to comply with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) Orders in relation to bacteriological content and the efficiency of heat treatment.

During the year a total of 470 samples of designated milk and 82 undesignated milk were submitted for bacteriological examination.

Pasteurised Milk. There are three pasteurising plants in the Borough, two deal with fairly large quantities of milk whilst the other, a small plant, is rarely used. Large quantities of pasteurised milk are imported into Blackburn from a neighbouring pasteurising firm. Eighty six samples were bacteriologically examined and submitted to the phosphatase test. All samples passed the phosphatase test and methylene blue tests, whilst thirteen failed to pass the test for coliforms. The majority of coliform failures came from a local firm. Investigations into the causes of this post pasteurisation contamination of pasteurised milk are now in progress.

Tuberculin Tested Milk. Two farms in Blackburn are licensed to produce tuberculin tested milk, and the herds at both farms are on the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Attested Herd Register. Five producer retailers of tuberculin tested milk deliver in Blackburn, and milk from eight farms is brought to a local dairy where it is bottled prior to delivery to the consumer. One hundred and twenty two samples of milk were submitted to the methylene blue and coliform tests. Of these, forty four failed to pass the tests. The local farms have been visited when necessary, and producers advised on methods of production.

Accredited Milk. There are twenty-one accredited producers in Blackburn and district, eleven of these being in the Borough. Two of the latter are wholesalers only. Of one hundred and fourteen samples submitted for bacteriological examination, thirty-five failed to reach the required standard.

Sterilised Milk. This milk is not designated under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, but is required to pass the tests as applied to pasteurised milk. A local dairy sterilises a considerable gallonage of milk daily, and further supplies are brought into Blackburn from an outside dairy. Forty-eight samples were examined during the year and of these, two were reported unsatisfactory.

Non-Designated Milk. There is no bacterial standard laid down by legislation for this milk. Eighty-two samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examination. Of these, 28 failed to reach the standard adopted by this Department.

Tubercle Bacilli. One hundred and twenty-five samples of milk were taken and examined for tubercle bacilli, of which eight gave positive results. These were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery.

Milk Vehicles. One hundred and five vehicles have been inspected in the course of the year, and two verbal notices given in connection with unsatisfactory vehicles.

TABLE 12.

**AVERAGE COMPOSITION OF MILK SOLD IN BLACKBURN,
YEAR 1948.**

MONTH	No. of Samples Taken.	% of Fat	% of other Solids.
January	14	3.47	8.50
February	11	3.50	8.67
March	18	3.28	8.44
April	12	3.35	8.76
May	14	3.28	8.86
June	12	3.38	9.17
July	15	3.56	9.10
August	16	3.47	9.03
September	14	3.55	8.77
October	12	3.08	9.00
November	25	3.45	8.67
December	7	3.81	8.70
Average	170	3.43	8.80

Milk in Schools Scheme.—During the year 750,041 pints of milk were consumed in schools in Blackburn.

Meat Inspection.—In Cattle and Pigs, the only disease which takes heavy toll, amongst apparently healthy animals, is tuberculosis.

The number of susceptible animals (cattle, calves, pigs) affected with tuberculosis during 1948, was 1,600 or 13·14%.

Of 11,593 bovines slaughtered, 1,562 or 13·47%, were found to be affected with tuberculosis in some degree.

Of 577 pigs slaughtered, 38, or 6·6%, were affected.

In 1948, 163 carcasses of cattle were totally condemned as being unfit for human food, and of these, 156 were affected with tuberculosis.

Infestation with fluke necessitates condemnation of a large proportion of livers. The number of livers and part livers rejected on this account during the year was 8,447.

Regular visits were made during the year to butchers and other meat shops, food preparing premises, wholesale and retail fish markets and to the meat market.

TABLE 13.**NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR.**

Beasts	Sheep	Calves	Pigs	Total
6944	24631	4649	577	36801

NUMBER OF IMPORTED CARCASSES AND PORTIONS OF CARCASSES ETC. BROUGHT TO THE ABATTOIR.**TABLE 14.**

CARCASSES			PARTS OF CARCASSES					
Beef	Mutton and Lamb	Pork	Quart's of Beef	Bags of Pork Cuts	Sides of Veal	Bags of Mutton Cuts	Bags of Offal	Cases of Canned Corned Meat
...	61,381	...	13,686	491	...	...	3,368	7,432

CARCASSES EXAMINED AND REJECTED**TABLE 15.**

	Cows	Heifers	Bulls	Bullocks	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Total No. of Carcasses Examined	2,917	1,912	131	1,984	4,649	24,631	577	36,801
No. Rejected for Tuberculosis	143	11	2	...	4	...	3	163
No. Rejected for Diseases, Etc., other than Tuberculosis ...	6	...	1	..	88	44	2	141

FISH, ETC., REJECTED.

Stones Fish	592	Bags of tripe	—
lbs. imported liver	310	lbs. of pigs trotters	75
lbs. imported mutton	160	lbs. bacon and ham	205
lbs. imported beef	1007	Rabbits	300
Gangs of sheeps feet	4084	lbs. of potted meat	182
		lbs. black pudding	57
		lbs. luncheon meat	12
		lbs. jellied maws	24

CARCASSES, ETC., SENT FOR UTILISATION

95 tons. 4 cwts. —qrs. 9 lbs.

NUMBER OF VISITS TO INSPECT FOOD

Meat Shops	601	Meat Market	41
Fish Shops	225	Fish Market	82
Provision Shops	331	Fish Siding	211

OTHER FOODSTUFFS SEIZED OR SURRENDERED

Tins of Meat	1464	Trays of Peaches	2
Tins of Milk	1558	Barrels of Grapes	12
Tins of Vegetables	1373	Bags of Cabbage	100
Tins of Fish	603	Chips of Cress	2½
Tins of Fruit	999	lbs. of Dried Fruit	182
Tins of Soup	516	lbs. of Cheese	8
Tins of Jam and Marmalade	2474 & 86	Pks. of Cereals	29
Tins of Tomatoes	21	Cwts. of Oatmeal	75½
Tins of Macaroni	14	Cwts. of Peas	90
Tins of Golden Corn	7	Bottles of pickles	93
Tins of Puddings	48	Pks. of Dates	130
Tins of Rabbits	8	Pks. of Semolina	495
Tins of Peas	1205	Pks. of Barley	15
Tins of Beans	405	Pks. Pudding Mixture	61
Tins of Dried Milk	108	lbs. Fish Spread	4
Tins of Tomato Juice	48	lbs. sausages	7
Tins of Potato	32	Bottles of Vinegar	5
Tins of Herring Tit-bits	167	Bottles of Olive Oil	4
Tins of Chicken	8	lbs. Liquid Egg	40
Pheasants	42	lbs. of nuts	86
Chips of bilberries	36	lbs. Cooking Fat, Sweetened	442
Chips of cherries	2½	Cartons Choc. Spread	8
Chips of Blackcurrants	2	Bags of Shellfish	17
Cases of Pears	7	Bags of Shrimps	10

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 13.

**INSPECTION OF PREMISES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED,
SOLD OR STORED.**

Number of premises inspected	125
Number of premises found satisfactory	69
Number of premises found unsatisfactory	56
Number of re-visits to unsatisfactory premises	165
Number of premises made satisfactory	50

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Butchers and cooked foods premises	143
Bakchouses	100
Cafes and Snack Bars, etc.	13
Fish Friers	19
Grocers	9
Food Factories	3
Interviews re proposed food premises	28
Greengrocers	3

DETAILS OF CONTRAVENTIONS FOUND

	<i>Contraventions</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Sanitary conveniences in direct communication.....	5	5
Walls, ceilings, woodwork, not kept clean.....	47	50
Rooms not in structural repair.....	30	27
Insufficient Ventilation.....	12	9
Accumulations of refuse, and cleansing of floors	2	2
Insufficient cleanliness of utensils, apparatus, etc... ..	—	3
Sinks not provided or defective	11	10
Hot and cold water not provided.....	4	6
Refuse accommodation not provided	3	2
Drain inlets in rooms	2	—
Yard surfaces	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	117	105

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14.

Applications for the registration of premises for the manufacture of sausage, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.

Number of applications received	39
Number of applications granted	39
Number of applications refused	0

TABLE 16. THE FOOD & DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928

	Samples Taken		Samples Genuine		Samples Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk	171	7	155	7	16	—
Clear Mixed Pickle	—	1	—	1	—	—
Saccharin	1	2	1	1	—	1
Peter Sauco	—	1	—	1	—	—
Gravy Browning	—	3	—	3	—	—
Cough Mixture	—	1	—	1	—	—
Scidlitz Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—
Sulphur Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—
Herb and Botanic Beer	—	1	—	1	—	—
Mixed Vegetable Soup	—	1	—	1	—	—
White Pepper	—	3	—	3	—	—
Baking Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—
Frying Oil	1	—	1	—	—	—
Malt Vinegar	2	—	2	—	—	—
Jelly Crystals	1	—	1	—	—	—
Non brewed Vinegar	2	—	2	—	—	—
Gooseberry and Raspberry Jam	1	—	1	—	—	—
Gelatine	2	1	—	1	2	—
Chicken Broth	—	1	—	1	—	—
Capers	—	1	—	1	—	—
Curry Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—
Dessert Mould	—	1	—	1	—	—
Junket Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—
Chutney	—	1	—	1	—	—
Almond Flavouring	—	1	—	1	—	—
Grape Puree	—	1	—	1	—	—
Wonder Mix	—	1	—	1	—	—
Bun Flour	—	1	—	1	—	—
Tincture of Iodine	—	1	—	1	—	—
Coffee and Chicory Essence	2	—	2	—	—	—
Mild Beer	2	—	2	—	—	—
Potted Meat	3	—	3	—	—	—
Pork Sausage	1	—	—	—	1	—
Cream of Tartar	—	1	—	1	—	—
Meat Soup	—	2	—	2	—	—
Ginger	—	1	—	1	—	—
Vitacup	—	1	—	1	—	—
Crab Paste	—	2	—	2	—	—
Apple Puree	—	1	—	1	—	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	—	2	—	2	—	—
Herrings in Tomato Sauce	—	1	—	1	—	—
Jolly Set	—	1	—	1	—	—
Tomato Juico	1	—	1	—	—	—
Orango Juice	1	—	1	—	—	—
Algorian Wine	1	—	1	—	—	—
Black Currant Jolly	1	—	1	—	—	—
Total	193	47	174	46	19	1

TABLE 16—Continued

	Samples Taken		Samples Genuine		Samples Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Beef Sausage	7	—	6	—	1	—
Trifle	1	—	1	—	—	—
Mint Saucio	—	1	—	1	—	—
Sea Mussels	—	1	—	1	—	—
Beef Paste	—	1	—	1	—	—
Beetroot	—	1	—	1	—	—
Military Pickle	—	1	—	1	—	—
Sardines	—	1	—	1	—	—
Semolina	—	1	—	1	—	—
Horseradish Sauce	—	1	—	1	—	—
Beef and Vegetable Broth.....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sweety Fizz.....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Liquid Parrafin	1	—	1	—	—	—
Meat Tenderiser	1	—	—	—	1	—
Suet	1	—	1	—	—	—
Mustard	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cephos Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—
Fish and Vegetable Puree	—	1	—	1	—	—
Chocolate Laxative.....	—	1	—	1	—	—
Pea Soup	—	1	—	1	—	—
Harrogate Health Salt	—	1	—	1	—	—
Coffee	—	1	—	1	—	—
Barley Flour.....	—	1	—	1	—	—
Vermacelli	—	1	—	1	—	—
Ice-Cream.	—	16	—	16	—	—
Concentrated Apple Juice	1	—	1	—	—	—
Fruit Sauce	1	—	1	—	—	—
Glycerine, Lemon and Ipecac Mixture	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sweet Pudding, Date	1	—	1	—	—	—
Culinary Herbs	1	—	1	—	—	—
Ginger Wine Flavouring	—	1	—	1	—	—
Mixed Spice	—	1	—	1	—	—
Dried Bananas	—	1	—	1	—	—
Quinine, Strychnine and Iron Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—
Salt	—	1	—	1	—	—
Pudding Spice	—	1	—	1	—	—
Borax and Honey	—	1	—	1	—	—
Raspberry Flavouring	—	1	—	1	—	—
Starch	—	1	—	1	—	—
Fish Cakes	1	—	1	—	—	—
Apple Juice	1	—	1	—	—	—
Gin	1	—	1	—	—	—
Yerba Mate Tea	1	—	1	—	—	—
Carrot Fingers.....	—	1	—	1	—	—
Total	22	43	20	43	2	—

TABLE 16—*Continued*

	Samples Taken		Samples Genuine		Samples Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Yorkshiro Pudding Pancake and Fritter Mixture	—	1	—	1	—	—
Gravy Improver	—	1	—	1	—	—
Asparagus Soup	—	1	—	1	—	—
Thymo	—	1	—	1	—	—
Syrup of Figs	—	1	—	1	—	—
Lime Flavoured Sulphur Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—
Sage and Onion Stuffing.....	—	1	—	1	—	—
Sarsaparilla	—	1	—	1	—	—
Fish Dressing	1	—	1	—	—	—
Potted Fish	1	—	1	—	—	—
Liquid Red Colour	1	—	1	—	—	—
Blackcurrant Flavour Cordial...	1	—	1	—	—	—
Camden Solution Tablets	1	—	1	—	—	—
Tea Time Tablets	1	—	—	—	1	—
Food Flavouring Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—
Tincture of Rhubarb	—	1	—	1	—	—
Coffee Cubes.....	—	1	—	1	—	—
Sandwich Spread.....	—	1	—	1	—	—
Fruity Flip	—	1	—	1	—	—
Linseed	—	1	—	1	—	—
Zoo Zoo Powders.....	—	1	—	1	—	—
Lemon and Blackcurrant Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—
Lime Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—
Brisking Paste.....	—	1	—	1	—	—
Meat Pie	1	—	1	—	—	—
Glycerine, Lemon and Honey....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Pebona	1	—	1	—	—	—
Ground Almonds.....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Tea	1	—	1	—	—	—
Singers	1	—	1	—	—	—
Salad Dressing.....	1	1	1	1	—	—
Sweetening Tablets.....	—	1	—	1	—	—
Custard Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—
Parsley	—	1	—	1	—	—
Brownit.....	—	1	—	1	—	—
Caraway Seeds.....	—	2	—	2	—	—
Essence of Rennet	—	1	—	1	—	—
Sweetened Sponge Mixture	—	1	—	1	—	—
Yorkshire Relish	1	—	1	—	—	—
Snappy Sam Cocktail.....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Luncheon Sausage	1	—	1	—	—	—
Branston Pickle	—	1	—	1	—	—
Mixed Herbs.....	—	1	—	1	—	—
French Mustard	—	1	—	1	—	—
Foam Crystals	—	1	—	1	—	—
TOTAL	16	31	15	31	1	—

TABLE 16.— *Continued.*

	Samples Taken		Samples Genuine		Samples Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Self Raising Flour	—	1	—	1	—	—
Powdered Mace	—	1	—	1	—	—
Paprika	—	1	—	1	—	—
Indian Curry Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—
Appegin	—	1	—	1	—	—
Aspirin Mixture	—	1	—	—	—	1
Salad Cream	1	—	1	—	—	—
Olive Oil	1	1	—	1	1	—
Ribena	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sherry	1	—	1	—	—	—
Glycerine	1	—	1	—	—	—
South African Sherry	1	—	1	—	—	—
Butter	1	—	1	—	—	—
Ginger Wine	1	—	1	—	—	—
Tomato Soup	—	1	—	1	—	—
Barley Crystals	—	1	—	1	—	—
Wheat Semolina	—	1	—	1	—	—
Gravet	—	1	—	1	—	—
Mussels	—	1	—	1	—	—
Kipper Paste	—	1	—	1	—	—
Toffee Puffs	1	—	1	—	—	—
Mock Marzipan	1	—	1	—	—	—
Fruit Pudding	1	—	1	—	—	—
Ground Almond Substitute	1	—	1	—	—	—
Plum Pudding	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sweepstake Cocktail	1	—	1	—	—	—
Loose Custard Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—
Yankees (Mints)	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cream of Tarter	—	1	—	1	—	—
Tapioca	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cake Decoration	—	1	—	1	—	—
Glycerine, Lemon and Ipec. and Balsam	—	2	—	2	—	—
Composition	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total	14	21	13	19	1	2
Brought Forward .....(i)	193	47	174	46	19	1
(ii)	22	43	20	43	2	—
(iii)	16	31	15	31	1	0
(iv)	14	21	13	19	1	2
Grand Total	245	142	222	139	23	3

TABLE 17

THE FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION ACT,) 1928.—ACTION TAKEN IN REGARD TO ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

Article Purchased	No. of Sample	Formal	Informal	Amount of Adulteration.	Action Taken.
Milk	28	1	—	Contained 4% of added water.	Letter of warning sent. Samples 36 and 37 were appeal to cow samples following unsatisfactory reports on 29 and 35. Appeal to cow samples reported abnormal. Letter of warning sent.
Milk	29	1	—	Contained 3% of added water.	
Milk	35	1	—	Contained 6% of added water.	
Milk	36	1	—	Reported by Public Analyst as abnormal.	
Milk	37	1	—		
Gelatine	23	—	1	Contained 1.67% mineral matter in excess of the amount stated in the Edible Gelatine (Control) Order, 1947.	Letter of warning sent. Composition of gelatine later brought in accordance with the requirements of the Order.
Pork Sausage	60	1	—	Contained 2% of soya flour. Meat Products and Canned Meat (Control and Maximum Prices) Order, 1947, prohibits the use of this flour.	Letter of warning sent.
Milk	68	1	—	24% deficient in fat.	Owing to legal error in issue of sampling authority by County Council, no proceedings could be undertaken. Letter of warning sent.
Saccharin	7	—	1	11% deficient in saccharin.	Formal sample obtained and reported genuine.
Milk	89	1	—	4% deficient in fat.	Letter of warning sent.
Milk	93	1	—	1.66% deficient in fat.	Letter of warning sent.
Liquid Paraffin	119	1	—	Contained moisture and foreign matter.	Letter of warning sent.
Lime Flavoured Sulphur Tablets	221	—	1	Sulphur and Tartaric Acid were in excess of the amount stated.	No tablets available for formal samples.
Meat Tenderiser	121	1	—	Contained 550 parts per million of the preservative Benzoic Acid. Use of preservative prohibited in this article.	Case appeared in court and was dismissed owing to an error of the summons.
Milk ..	131	1	—	4.3% deficient in fat.	Letter of warning sent.
Milk ..	134	1	—	1% deficient in fat.	Letter of warning sent.
Milk ..	147	1	—	Fat 2.3% solids not fat 8.35%. Freezing point 0.536 deg. Cent.	Abnormal milk. Letter sent to producer.

Milk	150	1	—	Fat 2.57%. { Sold as skimmed milk.	Vendor prosecuted for sale of skimmed milk from an unmarked vessel. Fined £5.
Milk	164	1	—	11% deficient in fat.	Time allowed for commencement of proceedings expired. Letter of warning sent.
Sarsaparilla ..	223	—	1	Contravention of Labelling of Food Order, 1946.	Letter of warning sent.
Teatime Tablets	229	1	—	Contravention of Labelling of Food Order, 1946.	Letter of warning sent.
Singers	261	1	—	Contravention of Labelling of Food Order, 1946.	Letter of warning sent.
Milk	266	1	—	13% deficient in fat.	Fined £2.
Milk	294	1	—	Contained 23% extraneous water.	Fined £20.
Coffee Cubes ..	247	—	1	Gelatine present contrary to Gelatine Control Order.	Letter of warning sent. Permission given under licence by Ministry of Food which allows manufacturer to use gelatine.
Milk	353	1	—	20% deficient in fat.	Appeal to cow samples were reported by the Public Analyst as containing the bare legal minimum of fat. Letter of warning sent.
Beef Sausage	348	1	—	30% deficient in meat.	Referred to Ministry of Food for permission to institute legal proceedings. Permission not granted. Letter of warning sent.
Aspirin Mixture	314	—	1	Quality of mixture had deteriorated, and did not conform to the British Pharmaceutical Codex, 1934.	Letter of warning sent. All stock returned to manufacturer.
Olive Oil	318	—	1	Sample rancid and unfit for human consumption.	Letter of warning sent. Stock surrendered and destroyed.
Luncheon Sausage ..	292	1	—	16% deficient in meat.	Letter of warning sent.
Milk	364	1	—	Contained 17% of extraneous water.	Fined £10.
Milk	365	1	—	Contained 5% of extraneous water.	Owing to an irregularity this case was considered to be unsuitable for legal proceedings.
Milk	366	1	—	Contained 6% of extraneous water.	No further stock available for formal sample.
Composition	391	—	1	Sample unfit for human consumption due to mould growth.	

A producer/retailer of milk was prosecuted for failing to allow samples of milk to be taken. A fine of £5 was imposed.

TABLE 18.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVE &C. IN FOOD) REGULATIONS 1925 TO 1940

DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE.	No. of samples examined	No. samples free	No. containing preservative	Where examination for preservative has been made and none found the fact is indicated by a +. All results are expressed in parts per million.							
				Sulphur Dioxide	Benzoic Acid	Borates	Salicylic Acid	H'drogen peroxide	Formaldehyde	Fluorides	Nitrites
Milk	170	—	—	—	—	+	—	—	+	—	—
Jam	1	1	—	+	+	+	+	—	—	—	—
Pepper	4	4	—	+	—	+	—	—	—	—	—
Algerian Wine	1	—	1	50	+	+	—	—	—	—	—
Beer	2	2	—	+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Capers	1	1	—	+	—	+	—	—	—	—	—
Chutney	1	—	1	165	+	+	+	—	—	—	—
Coffee and Chicory-Essence	2	2	—	+	+	+	+	—	—	—	—
Gelatine	3	2	1	700	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grape Puree	1	—	190	+	+	+	—	—	—	—	—
Jelly and Jelly Crystals	2	2	—	+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jelly Sets	1	—	1	440	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Junket Powder	1	1	—	+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orange Juice	1	—	1	200	+	+	+	—	—	—	—
Pickles	1	—	1	165	+	+	+	—	—	—	—
Potted Meat	3	3	—	+	—	+	—	—	—	—	+
Sauce.....	1	1	—	+	+	+	+	—	—	—	—
Sausages	7	7	—	+	—	+	—	—	—	—	+
Tomato Juice	1	1	—	+	+	+	+	—	—	—	—
Trifle	1	1	—	+	—	—	—	—	—	+	—
Butter	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sherry	2	2	—	+	—	+	—	—	—	—	—
Barley Crystals	1	1	—	+	+	+	—	—	—	—	—

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926. Twelve samples of feeding stuffs and fertilisers were examined by the Analyst during the year. Of these nine conformed with the statutory statement and four failed to do so. The vendors of the samples were informed of the difference between the actual composition and the composition as defined in the statutory statement, and the deficiency or excess was pointed out.

The appended table gives particulars of the work done under the Act

TABLE 19.

Article	No. of Samples	Formal	Informal	According to Statutory Statement	Not According to Statutory Statement	Action taken.
Dried Blood	1	—	1	—	1	Letter of warning sent.
Hoof and Horn Meal	1	—	1	—	1	Letter of warning sent.
Meat and Bone Meal	1	—	1	1	—	
Fish Meal	1	—	1	—	1	Letter of warning sent.
Millers Offal	1	—	1	1	—	
Growmore	1	—	1	1	—	
Sangral	1	—	1	1	—	
Processed Sugar Beet	1	—	1	1	—	
Dried Blood	1	—	1	1	—	
Unrationed Meal	1	—	1	—	—	No statutory statement given.
						Letter of warning sent.
Meat and Bone Meal	1	—	1	1	—	

PART IV

Prevalence of
and
Control over,
Infectious Disease.

TABLE 20

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1948.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.		Number of Notifications received	Number of Cases in which diagnosis was subsequently corrected	Corrected number of notifications	Number admitted to Hospital	Number Died
Small-pox	...	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera	...	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria (Including Membranous Group)	...	17	15	2	23§	-
Erysipelas	...	12	-	12	3	-
Scarlet Fever	...	213	1	212	76	1
Typhus Fever	...	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	...	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	48	-	48	3	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	5	2	3	6†	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	14	-	14	2	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	74	-	74	118*†	50*
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	34	-	34	14*†	7*
Poliomyelitis...	...	3	-	3	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	-	1	1	-	2
Dysentery	...	8	1	7	3	-
Malaria	...	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal)	...	108	-	108	-	74
Diarrhoea	...	11	-	11	-	5
Whooping Cough	...	236	-	236	7	-
Measles	...	779	1	778	17	1
Pemphigus Neonatorum	...	-	-	-	-	-
		1562	-	1543	273	142

*These figures include a number of cases notified during previous years. †These figures include Blackburn cases admitted to the various Hospitals under the control of the Lancashire County Council.

§ Includes 7 cases admitted as ? Diphtheria. ‡ Includes 1 case which proved to be Encephalitis Lethargica.

¶ The case which proved to be Encephalitis Lethargica was admitted to hospital as Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

TABLE 21.

SHewing NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NOTIFIED FROM 1938 TO 1948.

DISEASE.	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	172	95	65	66	82	69	29	32	28	19	17
Erysipelas	17	34	24	26	18	21	10	18	10	7	12
Scarlet Fever	235	192	92	98	254	317	330	399	120	159	213
Enteric Fever	2	...	10	7	...	2	2	...	1	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	24	23	12	23	19	23	29	22	33	64	48
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	6	7	25	35	20	13	4	10	5	6	5
Poliomyelitis	2	1	8	...	...	...	1	2	1	2	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	100	88	91	80	109	99	83	84	88	97	74
Other forms of Tuberculosis	38	31	24	26	32	25	9	26	22	25	34
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	14	6	14	13	15	15	23	28	23	14
*Measles ... ..	...	107	1367	992	804	144	1220	306	596	584	779
Encephalitis Lethargica	5	3	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	15	2	41	2	64	78	59	16	4	8
Malaria	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Pneumonia	166	215	186	137	117	147	49	76	72	82	108
†Diarrhoea... ..	2	3	...	5	1	...	...	2	...	6	11
*Whooping Cough ... ..	...	142	412	249	147	218	132	93	125	152	236
TOTALS	775	970	2324	1802	1619	1159	1991	1152	1146	1231	1562

* Notifiable from 1939 † Notifiable from July 1st to October 31st.

PARK LEE HOSPITAL.

Since July 5th, Park Lee Hospital which, for the past fifty years has been controlled directly by the Council, has been administered jointly by the Hospital Management Committee and the Local Health Authority, the latter acting as agents of the former. The agency arrangements terminate on April 1st, 1949.

During the agency period, the hospital has been called upon to serve the Blackburn Hospital Group which covers a population of 260,000, a most difficult task, particularly so as Bull Hill Infectious Diseases Hospital, Darwen, (one of 42 beds,) is no longer available for infectious diseases. The loss of these beds has aggravated the pre-existing shortage at Park Lee.

In consequence a comparatively large number of patients in the Blackburn Hospital Group have, perforce, been admitted to extra-area hospitals. These in their turn, though more favourably placed perhaps than we are, are feeling the pinch and it became daily more difficult to find beds.

I feel very concerned at the present inadequate accommodation which cannot cope with even the present low incidence of infectious disease. Should we be visited with anything approaching an epidemic the position would be most difficult of control.

Although the provision of beds is no longer the responsibility of Local Health Authorities, the preventive duties of the latter remain.

Again, though isolation in the home may sometimes be effected without danger to others, decision as to home or hospital isolation must be governed by the condition of the patient and not only by the need for isolation. Severe cases of diphtheria (fortunately rare), or of scarlet fever, and of meningitis, for instance, require expert medical and nursing care which only the hospital can provide.

There is an acute need of further staffed beds in the area not only for the purpose of prevention of spread but also for the treatment of the more serious infections and for observation cases. The Local Hospital Authority (and the Local Health Authority before them) are alive to existing deficiencies and have spared no effort to rectify them. The cause of the matter is shortage of nursing staff.

It is a pity that such a pleasant hospital as Park Lee, fully equipped to deal with a wide variety of infectious disease, should be 75 per cent. closed to the reception of the communicable diseases due to lack of nurses.

The Hospital would become more elastic and capable of meeting increased demands were a cubicle block of 24 beds available. Such a block conceived on modern and labour-saving lines, would need little more staff than is now required for the seven cubicles on Ward III. The latter ward, though useful, is an improvisation presenting certain awkward features which cause waste of staff time.

The total accommodation of 124 beds is the same as in previous years: 110 of these beds are in 4 large wards and 14 in a ward composed of 7 isolation cubicles. One ward of 30 beds has been used for the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and the cubicle ward has been used throughout the year for infectious diseases. The other three wards have been closed, except when one (19 beds) was opened for a month from 25th November, and used for cases of infectious disease. Unfortunately the shortage of nursing staff made it impossible to keep this ward open.

Admissions. Patients admitted during 1948 (excluding Tuberculosis) numbered 190, as compared with a total of 197 in 1947. The daily average number of beds occupied was 9.07, the highest number of infectious disease beds occupied at one time being 20, and the lowest, 2. The average length of stay of all patients was 17.5 days. Thirty-two patients, 11 before, and 21 after, July 5th, were admitted from outside Blackburn, while certain Blackburn patients were admitted to other Isolation Hospitals ; 23 of the admissions were patients transferred from other hospitals.

There was one birth in the Hospital during the year.

Deaths. There were three deaths during the year ; one in January due to Haemorrhagic Scarlet Fever, and two in December certified as being due to Gastro-Enteritis and Haemorrhagic Measles respectively.

TABLE 22. Patients treated in Corporation Hospital.

Disease as notified.	In Hospital on January 1st, 1948	Admitted during 1948.			Recovered	Transferred to other hospital	Died	In Hospital on 31st Dec., 1948
		With final diagnosis as notified	With final diagnosis not as notified					
Scarlet Fever	3	79	1		78	2	1	2
Diphtheria	1	2	26*		27	—	—	2
Gastro-Enteritis	5	17	2		21	2	1	—
Measles	—	18	2		14	2	1	3
Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	3 ⁺	—		2	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	2	4		5	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	2	—		2	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	4	—		4	—	—	—
Chicken-Pox	1	—	—		1	—	—	—
Whooping-Cough	—	10	—		8	2	—	—
Erysipelas	—	4	—		3	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	2	2		4	—	—	—
Steven-Johnson Syndrome	—	1	—		1	—	—	—
Tonsillitis with Stridor	—	1	—		1	—	—	—
Mothers admitted with Babies	—	3	—		3	—	—	—
Babies admitted with Mothers	—	4	—		4	—	—	—
Mother in Labour (S.F. Contact)	—	1	—		1	—	—	—
Child born in Hospital	—	1	—		1	—	—	—

*1 case admitted as Diphtheritic Paralysis proved to be Bulbar Poliomyelitis.

†1 case admitted as Cerebro-Spinal Fever proved to be Encephalitis Lethargica.

Scarlet Fever. 80 cases were admitted as Scarlet Fever. One proved to be a serum rash, and two cases of surgical Scarlet Fever following burns, were transferred when free from infection to the hospital whence admitted.

Scarlet Fever patients were admitted to hospital only when isolation at home was impossible, or when special hospital treatment was necessary. The average length of stay in hospital was 20.9 days.

One case died of acute Myocarditis following haemorrhagic Scarlet Fever.

Eight cases were admitted with complications and 9 cases developed complications after admission. Of the former group, 5 had otitis media, 1 had pneumonia, 1 cervical adenitis, and 1 mastoiditis with an extradural abscess. Of the 9 cases developing complications after admission, 3 developed otitis media, 2 second attacks of tonsillitis, 1 adenitis, 2 septic skin lesions, and 1 developed carditis.

Two operations were performed on patients with scarlet fever, one for mastoiditis and drainage of an extra-dural abscess, and one myringotomy and adenoidectomy.

A number of patients had a course of intra-muscular Penicillin during the initial illness, including the case that died, the one who developed carditis, the one admitted with mastoiditis and others who developed no complications. Penicillin was used with success in ear and throat complications, adenitis and local septic lesions.

Diphtheria. 28 cases were admitted as Diphtheria. 2 cases were diagnosed clinically as diphtheria, but without bacteriological substantiation. 26 cases were found to be suffering from other diseases, namely :—

- 7 Catarrhal Laryngitis.
- 1 Measles with Laryngitis.
- 12 Tonsillitis.
- 3 Quinsy.
- 1 Vincents Angina,
- 1 Ludwig's Angina.
- 1 Bulbar Poliomyelitis.

Of the 2 cases of diphtheria, one had a severe pharyngeal diphtheria and the other pharyngeal and nasal.

One of the clinical cases (of mild type) had been previously immunised.

There were no complications and no deaths.

The average length of stay of all (28) cases admitted as diphtheria, was 16 days, and of the 2 cases of diphtheria, 45 days.

OTHER DISEASES.

Gastro-Enteritis. 19 cases were admitted as Gastro-Enteritis, 17 of whom were found to be suffering from this disease. The two remaining cases had colitis and appendicitis respectively. There was one death, that of an infant who developed gastro-enteritis before he had fully recovered from a Rammstedt's operation.

Measles. 20 cases were admitted as Measles, 18 of which proved to have the disease. Of the other two, one had a drug rash, and one urticaria.

Three of the measles cases were haemorrhagic. One haemorrhagic case, who died a few hours after admission, presented signs somewhat suggestive of smallpox. This suspicion, happily, was not substantiated. One haemorrhagic case also had pneumonia, subarachnoid haemorrhage, and encephalitis. The other haemorrhagic case had pneumonia.

Seven cases were complicated by broncho-pneumonia, 2 by otitis media, and one by enteritis.

Four cases were admitted on account of unsuitable home conditions.

Of the cases admitted as measles, 19 recovered.

Whooping Cough. 10 cases of complicated Whooping Cough were admitted during the year. They all recovered.

Poliomyelitis. Two cases were admitted as Poliomyelitis, and proved to be suffering from the disease. One Blackburn case had extensive paralysis and was later transferred for orthopaedic treatment. The other case, admitted from outside the Borough, had a mild transient paralysis and made a complete recovery.

Another case, admitted as suspected diphtheric paralysis of the palate and pharynx, was found to have bulbar poliomyelitis. Fortunately the paralysis was only partial and so improved that the patient was able to lead an almost normal life.

Puerperal Pyrexia. Four cases were admitted, of which two were severe. All responded well to Sulphonamides and Penicillin and made good recoveries.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Two cases were admitted and recovered without permanent damage to the eyes.

Erysipelas. 4 cases were admitted. One case was found to be suffering from diabetes mellitus and erysipelas. One was complicated by purulent ophthalmia and was later transferred for further treatment. One case developed a marked Penicillin sensitivity. All of them recovered.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. Six cases were admitted as Cerebro-Spinal Fever. Two were found to be suffering from this disease. Of the other four cases, one had encephalitis lethargica, one had broncho-pneumonia, one tonsillitis and one had a subdural haematoma and was transferred to another hospital where he died. The other cases recovered.

Tonsillitis. One case of Tonsillitis and Laryngitis was admitted on account of stridor, and recovered.

Dysentery. Of four cases which were admitted as Dysentery, two proved to have the disease. Of the other two cases, one had colitis, and one food poisoning. They all recovered.

Stevens-Johnson Syndrome. One case of this complaint was admitted. It was the patient's second attack. He was treated with Penicillin and Sulphadiazine and recovered without damage to the eyes.

Mother in Labour. This patient was a scarlet fever contact who had been refused admission to the Maternity Hospital. She had a normal delivery.

Mothers and Babies. Three healthy mothers were admitted with their infants, and four healthy babies with their mothers, in order that breast feeding could be continued.

Staff Sickness. All new staff were Schick and Dick tested, and where necessary immunised against diphtheria and scarlet fever. They were also immunised against the enteric group infections and vaccinated, if not recently so protected.

Routine chest X-Rays were taken of all Resident staff, all non-resident nurses and of any other members of the staff who desired it.

Number of staff admitted to the Wards : None.

Number of Resident Staff off duty for sickness : 7.

Number of visits to Doctor for sickness : 93.

Suspected case of Smallpox. This woman was admitted as a case of haemorrhagic measles, and died in a few hours, but until haemorrhagic smallpox could be excluded as an alternative diagnosis, full preventive measures were taken.

All hospital staff without exception were vaccinated. All the patients (except one who refused and one with measles/encephalitis) were vaccinated.

Hospital staff and patients were kept under daily surveillance for three weeks. Admissions and visiting were stopped for most of the time.

Blood from the patient showed no antibodies, and gave no growth of variola virus on chorio-allantois of chick embryos.

No secondary case of smallpox occurred, and smallpox was therefore, ruled out of court.

TABLE 23

ADMISSIONS FROM OTHER HOSPITALS OR INSTITUTIONS

Disease	Admitted from				
	Blackburn Royal Infirmary	Queen's Park Hospital	Springfield Maternity Home	Bull Hill Hospital	Bolton Fever Hospital
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	—	—
Measles	4	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	4	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—
Gastro-Enteritis	7	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1	—	—	—
Sonné Dysentery	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia (Mother and Baby)	—	—	2	—	—
Totals	19	2	2	—	—

Out of Borough Cases. Admissions from outside Blackburn were as follows :

Measles	3
Scarlet Fever	12
Poliomyelitis	1
Diphtheria	5
Whooping Cough/Pneumonia	2
Tonsillitis with Stridor	1
Gastro Enteritis	5
Erysipelas	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Baby admitted with Mother	1

Tuberculosis. Male patients only have been admitted as in the previous year, and a number of male nursing orderlies have been employed to supplement the nursing staff. Women patients were treated at other Sanatoria.

The majority of cases were late or advanced, and this has caused the death rate to be high. Seven of them were so advanced that they died within 15 days of admission. A small number of early cases were also treated.

Seven cases were admitted for observation and diagnosis, and of these, one was found to have Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Of the other six, two had inoperable Carcinoma of the lung, one had Leukaemia, and three were not suffering from any serious disease. Two cases admitted as tuberculous were found to be suffering from other diseases namely, Bronchiectasis and Septic Lung Abscesses.

Of the 22 deaths, 18 were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 4 to other diseases, namely :—

- 2 Carcinoma of the lung.
- 1 Haemoptysis due to Septic Lung.
- 1 Septic Broncho-Pneumonia due to Bronchiectasis.

During the year 16 patients were brought to the Dental Clinic for treatment. The following is a summary of treatment carried out :—

Permanent Teeth Extracted.....	22
Permanent Teeth Filled.....	1
Other Operations.....	12
General Anaesthetics	2
Patients received Dentures (1 full upper and lower)	1

	Blackburn Cases	Cases from the County Area	Total
No. of patients resident on 1st Jan., 1948...	9	17	26
No. admitted during 1948	31	38	69
No. of patients remaining on 31st Dec. 1948	8	17	25
No. of deaths	11	11	22
No. of patients discharged during 1948 ...	21	38	59

TABLE 24
SANATORIUM WARD

Details of special treatments.		Blackburn	County	Total
Artificial Pneumothorax	Inductions	3	13	16
	Refills	45	67	112
Artificial Pneumoperitoneum	Inductions	5	7	12
	Refills	122	68	190
Myocrisin	Number of patients	1	—	1
	Number of injections	9	—	9
Aspirations—Chest	Number of patients	2	—	2
	Number of aspirations	3	—	3
	Abscesses	—	4	4
Mantoux tests	Number of patients	3	—	3
	Number of tests	7	—	7
Blood Sedimentation Tests (Westergren)		40	46	86
X-ray work	Screen examinations	24	280	304
	Skiagrams	155	202	357
Sputum examinations	Positive	100	137	237
	Negative	71	93	164
Cultures or Guinea Pig inoculations	Sputum	20	10	30
	Other specimens	6	8	14

PART V.

Tuberculosis Scheme

TUBERCULOSIS SCHEME.

During the year 1948 the Blackburn County Borough tuberculosis scheme continued to be administered by the Lancashire County Council and although with the inception of the National Health Service Act on the 5th July, 1948, the tuberculosis sanatoria, hospitals and dispensaries were taken over by the Minister of Health the County Council retained full administration of these as "agent" for the Regional Hospital Boards.

The number of patients admitted to sanatoria and hospitals was 119, 110 were discharged, and 20 died in the institutions; at the end of the year, 49 patients were still undergoing treatment. In addition 21 service cases were admitted, 28 were discharged and 9 were still in hospital at the end of 1948.

Patients suffering from non-tuberculosis chest conditions were treated at the Chest Centre, Broadgreen Hospital, Liverpool. 5 were admitted, and 6 were discharged (including one patient admitted before 1948). There were no deaths.

The number of tuberculous pensioners on the dispensary register at the end of the year was 64 as against 80 the previous year.

The number of cases on the DISPENSARY REGISTER on the 31st December was :—

		Pulmonary tuberculosis.		Non-pulmonary tuberculosis.		Total.
Adults ...	males	221	.....	24	.....	245
	females	133	.....	25	.....	158
Children	males	9	.....	37	.....	46
	females	5	.....	7	.....	12
		368	.....	93	.....	461

There were on the NOTIFICATION REGISTER the following cases :—

		Pulmonary tuberculosis.		Non-pulmonary tuberculosis.		Total.
Adults ...	males	225	.....	33	.....	258
	females	147	.....	35	.....	182
Children	males	6	.....	24	.....	30
	females	5	.....	21	.....	26
		383	.....	113	.....	496

Memo 266/T—Maintenance Allowances for Patients and Dependents.

As the payment of tuberculosis treatment allowances was taken over by the National Assistance Board, from the 5th July, 1948, it is not possible to give details of the number of applications, etc., dealt with during the year 1948.

TABLE 25

SUMMARY OF NOTIFICATIONS DURING THE YEAR

FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS.														
NUMBER OF PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS.														
AGE PERIODS...	0—	1—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	TOTAL ALL AGES	TOTAL NOTIFICA- TIONS 102	
Pulmonary Males	1	-	-	-	-	4	6	4	4	9	8	36	36	
" Females...	-	3	-	-	-	6	11	6	4	1	3	34	34	
Non-Pulmonary Males	1	-	4	1	2	3	1	1	1	-	2	16	16	
" Females...	-	1	2	1	2	3	2	3	-	1	1	16	16	
Col. (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(4)	

TABLE 26

New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year, otherwise than by formal notification.

Age Periods		0—	1—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	Total
Pulmonary	Males	—	—	—	—	1	2	7	10	9	6	7	42
Pulmonary	Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	1	2	3	14
Non-pulmonary	Males	1	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	5
Non-pulmonary	Females	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Total												...	63

The source from which information as to the above-mentioned cases was obtained.

Sources of Information.						No. of Cases	
						Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Death Returns	From Local Registrars	...	...	...		21	8
	Transferable deaths from Registrar-General					18	2
Posthumous Notifications						1	1
"Transfers" from other areas (other than transferable deaths)						4	1
Other Sources						4	3
Total						48	15

TABLE 27

Blackburn patients admitted to and discharged from sanatoria and hospitals during the year 1948.

INSTITUTION.	In Institution on 1st Jan. 48	Admitted	Discharged	Died in Institution	In Institution on 31 Dec., '48
Pulmonary Tuberculosis :					
Aitken Sanatorium	1	5	3	—	3
Elswick Sanatorium	4	5	6	—	3
High Carley Sanatorium	3	4	4	—	3
Westmorland Sanatorium ...	4	3	6	—	1
Brinscall Pulmonary Hospital	2	3	3	2	—
Heath Charnock Pulm. Hosp.	3	3	4	—	2
Rufford Pulmonary Hospital	5	6	8	1	2
Withnell Pulmonary Hosp...	11	13	17	5	2
Wrightington Hospital.....	5	20	14	3	8
Fall Birch Hospital	3	8	8	—	3
Halifax Sanatorium	5	8	12	—	1
Lancaster Pulmonary Hosp.	1	2	1	—	2
Park Lee Hospital.....	9	24	18	7	8
Peel Hall Pulmonary Hosp....	3	2	3	—	2
Broadgreen Hospital	—	3	3	—	—
Chadderton Pulmonary Hosp.	2	5	4	—	3
Hefferston Grange Sanatorium	—	1	1	—	—
Wolstenholme Pulmonary H.	—	1	1	—	—
Blackburn Royal Infirmary...	—	1	1	—	—
Preston Royal Infirmary.....	—	1	—	—	1
* Pulmonary Total	61	118	117	18	44

* These figures include military cases, details of which are given below.

TABLE 27—Continued.

	In Institution on 1st Jan., '48	Admitted	Discharged	Died in Institution	In Institution on 31 Dec., '48
Observation Cases Pulmonary					
Withnell Pulmonary Hospital	—	1	1	—	—
High Carley Sanatorium	—	1	—	—	1
Park Lee Hospital.....	—	3	3	—	—
Observation Total	—	5	4	—	1
Observation Cases— Non-Pulmonary :					
Wrightington Hospital.....	1	3	2	1	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis:					
Wrightington Hospital.....	14	9	10	1	12
Blackburn Royal Infirmary...	—	5	5	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Total	14	14	15	1	12
Military Cases :					
Broadgreen Hospital.....	—	2	2	—	—
Peel Hall Pulmonary Hosp....	1	1	1	—	1
Park Lee Hospital.....	8	5	10	2	1
Elswick Sanatorium.....	1	2	2	—	1
Wrightington Hospital.....	2	5	2	1	4
Heath Charnock Pulm. Hosp.	1	—	1	—	—
Withnell Pulmonary Hosp....	5	1	5	1	—
Chadderton	1	—	1	—	—
Rufford	1	1	2	—	—
Westmorland Sanatorium ...	—	1	1	—	—
Preston Royal Infirmary.....	—	1	—	—	1
Aitken Sanatorium	—	1	—	—	1
Brinscall Hospital.....	—	1	1	—	—
Total	20	21	28	4	9
Non-Tuberculous Chest Conditions :					
Broadgreen Hospital	1	5	6	—	—

TABLE 28

RETURNS SHOWING THE WORK OF THE BLACKBURN DISPENSARY
DURING THE YEAR 1948

DIAGNOSIS	PULMONARY				Non-PULMONARY				TOTAL				GRAND TOTAL
	Ad'lts		Chil'n		Ad'lts		Chil'n		Ad'lts		Chil'n		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
A.—(1) Number of definite cases of Tuberculosis on the Dispensary Register on the 1st January, 1948 ...	215	123	9	2	23	16	28	4	238	139	37	6	420
(2) Transfers from other Authorities during the year ...	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	5
(3) Lost sight of cases returned during the year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B.—Number of New Cases diagnosed as tuberculosis during the year :—													
(1) Class T.B. minus ...	24	15	—	3	—	—	—	—	24	15	—	3	42
(2) Class T.B. plus ...	15	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	16	—	—	31
(3) Non-pulmonary...	—	—	—	—	4	11	9	4	4	11	9	4	28
C.—Number of cases included in A and B written off the Dispensary Register during the year as :—													
(1) Recovered ...	5	8	—	—	2	2	—	1	7	10	—	1	18
(2) Dead (all causes) ...	27	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	12	—	—	39
(3) Removed to other Areas	4	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	3	—	—	8
(4) For other reasons ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
D.—Number of definite cases of Tuberculosis on the Dispensary Register on 31st December, 1948 ...	221	133	9	5	24	25	37	7	245	158	46	12	461

PART VI

Venereal Diseases

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Royal Infirmary Clinics

Three hundred and fourteen cases, of whom 153 were Blackburn residents, attended the Royal Infirmary Centre for the first time during the year. Of the Blackburn cases 50 were suffering from gonorrhœa, 38 from syphilis, and 65 from conditions non-venereal.

The appended Table shows the number of new cases seen yearly at the Royal Infirmary since 1937 :

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Male.</i>		<i>Female.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
1937	..	459	..	241	.	700
1938	..	416	..	265	..	681
1939	..	434	..	227	..	661
1940	..	318	..	174	..	492
1941	..	338	..	201	..	539
1942	..	383	..	242	..	625
1943	..	459	..	284	..	643
1944	..	335	..	274	..	609
1945	..	233	..	187	..	420
1946	..	402	..	159	..	561
1947	..	278	..	124	..	402
1948	..	236	..	78	..	314

The total number of attendances for all patients was 8,837, 4,439 of which were in respect of Blackburn residents. The aggregate number of in-patient days at the Royal Infirmary was 187.

During the year 44 males and 31 females ceased to attend the Clinic before completion of the full course, and 46 cases, 39 males, and 7 females discontinued attendance after completion of treatment, but before final tests for cure had been carried out.

I am indebted to Dr. A. Sebba, Venereologist at the Royal Infirmary, for the following notes :—

Owing to the delay of the manifestations of Syphilis treated by Penicillin, the numerous advantages of Penicillin for the treatment of Gonorrhœa are offset by the possibility of a rise in the future in the incidence of the late complications of Syphilis, even if the principle of the routine six months' surveillance period of patients treated for Gonorrhœa with Penicillin is rigorously adhered to.

A survey of the recent literature on Streptomycin indicates that the latter is not only the most valuable agent in the therapy of Granuloma Inguinale

but it is also exceedingly effective against Gonorrhoea and does not tend to mask the primary lesions of Syphilis. Streptomycin is however not yet available in sufficient quantity to permit of its general use in Venereal Diseases Clinics in this country.

Penicillin has proved of inestimable value in the prevention of prenatal Syphilis by the treatment of the pregnant syphilitic Mother ; to a lesser extent it is proving effective in all types of Neuro-syphilis.

(b) *The Victoria Street Centre :*

This centre is for the treatment of women maritally infected, and of children congenitally or accidentally infected. The Clinic forms part of the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, and all cases referred for treatment have passed through the Welfare Centres or Ante-Natal Clinics.

At the beginning of the year 42 were under treatment for syphilis and 19 for gonorrhœa. In the course of the year the following cases were dealt with for the first time :—Syphilis, 6 ; Gonorrhœa, 1 ; non-venereal conditions, 80. The total number of attendances made was 774

PART VII

National Health Service Act.

SECTION 22. CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

The services provided by the Authority before the appointed day were so comprehensive that only minor adjustments were needed.

Various extensions, particularly so as regards child Welfare and ante-natal work either took place or were approved during the year. Five additional day nurseries are to be provided, two of which (namely Stanceliffe Street and Church Hill House) will shortly be ready for occupation. Work is in progress on the Gladstone Street and Albion Street sites but it will be some time before these nurseries and the one proposed at Lincoln Street are in use.

Priority admission to the nurseries is granted to the children of female cotton operatives and preferential treatment is also given to women, not engaged in the textile trade, in straitened financial circumstances.

The overall supervision of the three existing nurseries is a difficult task requiring detailed day to day supervision and the Committee recently designated one of the Health Visitors "Superintendent Matron," an appointment which the subsequent smooth and efficient running of the nurseries has well justified.

As the new nurseries come into commission the Superintendent will be gradually relieved of her other duties (those of domestic help organiser and supervisor of child guardians) and devote her whole time to nursery administration and supervision.

It is still difficult to recruit junior staff as Blackburn girls are not attracted by nursery work entailing as it does longer hours and less pay than prevail in many other forms of industry.

In consequence some of the "Juniors" are drawn from outside the Borough and live at the St. Alban's Place Nursery. Additional Hostel accommodation will be required when the new nurseries are in use and No. 8 St. Alban's Place has been acquired for conversion into a Staff Hostel. This provision will enable recruitment of staff from a wider area than would otherwise be possible.

At present the nursery waiting list is 303, the five additional nurseries will give 200 extra places. The present waiting list does not, I feel, give a true picture as many mothers desiring admission of their children do not apply on account of the time which must elapse between application and admission.

Unless the present demand for female labour shows a considerable decline the additional provision, generous though it is, may not satisfy requirements.

Ante-Natal Clinics.—The arrangements are as described in the Report for 1947.

Appended are particulars of attendances at the Ante-natal Clinics :—

TABLE 29

	Public Health Department	Municipal Midwifery Service	TOTAL
<i>By Medical Officers—</i>			
No. of sessions	193	20	213
No. of patients attended ..	542	182	724
No. of attendances	2674	216	2890
<i>By Midwives—</i>			
No. of sessions	—	204	204
No. of patients attended	—	488	488
No. of attendances	—	3931	3931

Three hundred and one specimens of blood were taken from patients attending the Ante-Natal Clinics and submitted to the Wassermann test. None proved positive.

Of seven hundred specimens submitted to the Rh. Factor Test six hundred and thirty four were positive.

Medical Clinic for Ante-Natal Cases. I am indebted to Dr. McAdam, Physieian-in-Charge, for the appended report upon his consultant elinie.

Total number of sessions held to December 31st, 1948	...	...	24
Total number of new patients seen	...	...	116
Attendances	...	...	180

Diagnosis arrived at :—

Mitral stenosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
with normal rhythm	...	...	...	20	}	23	
with hypertension	...	..	...	2			
with hyperchromic anemia	...	...	...	1			
Thyrototoxicosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Normal Hearts	...	...	...	...	...	37	

Extra Investigations required :—

X-ray (additional to routine fluoroscopy carried out at Victoria Street)	...	...	...	...	...	7
Electrocardiograph	...	...	...	...	...	12
Blood picture	...	...	...	...	...	4
Blood Sugar Ratio	...	...	...	...	...	2
Urine analysis	...	...	...	...	...	2

Final Recommendations and Outcome. All organic heart cases were again treated by rest prior to delivery and all patients were safely and successfully delivered, there being no maternal or foetal deaths.

A. L. McADAM.

Post-Natal Clinic.

Number of Sessions held ...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Number of Attendances made ...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Number of Individuals ...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Number of abnormal cases ...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Number of cases in which no abnormality was found ...	...	...	...	...	...	18

Particulars of Abnormal Cases as set out below :

Retroversion of uterus ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Prolapse of uterus ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Vaginal discharges ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Painful breasts ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Perineal abscess ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cystitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Erosion of cervix ...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sterility ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cystocele ...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Relaxation Classes. I am indebted to Mr. Gledhill, F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G., Obstretic Consultant, for the following notes regarding the "Relaxation Classes" run in connection with the Council's Ante-Natal service :—

"During the past year we have inaugurated a new branch of the Physiotherapeutic Service for the benefit of expectant mothers, under the direction of the Obstetrician and the members of the Ante-Natal Medical Staff, and under the direct care and supervision of Mrs. Kempton, the Physiotherapist, in the fundamental processes of parturition, so that the mothers will not go into labour completely ignorant of what they are to undergo ; to train their bodies so that the muscles required for the delivery will be well developed ; and to bring their minds into a state of complete co-operation with those who will assist at confinement.

For some years it has been taught that if the mother is mentally relaxed and free from fear, her body also will be relaxed, and much better co-ordination of the muscles of the womb will follow. From the patient's point of view this is reflected in a speedier and less painful labour with fewer complications.

Although the service is as yet in its infancy, we have been greatly encouraged by the results and it is our aim eventually to provide facilities for all expectant mothers. The classes have been very well and eagerly attended.

and numerous letters from patients who have derived benefit from the instruction received have been a source of gratification to those responsible for this work.

In common with many other activities, a limit is set to an extension of this work by shortage, not only of premises, but also of qualified physiotherapists, but it is our hope that, as the value of this service becomes more widely appreciated, we shall be able to provide for all who wish to take advantage of the service."

No. of patients attended from June to December, 1948	.....	133
No. of attendances	.....	650

Ultra Violet Light Clinic.—Four hundred and seventeen cases (of which 232 were Maternity and Child Welfare cases and 185 School Health Service cases) attended the Ultra Violet Light Clinic which is conducted at the Health Department. They received a total of 2,870 exposures from the Mercury Vapour Lamp.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—Forty-eight cases, none of which terminated fatally, were notified during the year.

Number of cases notified	..	...	...	..	...	...	48
Borough cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Out of Borough cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Cases occurring in Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Cases occurring at home	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Maternal Mortality. Set out below is an analysis of the six maternal deaths which occurred during 1948 :—

CASE I. "Myocardial Failure due to Generalised Peritonitis, due to to Septic Abortion and Acute Septic Pneumonia."

Although not due to lack of obstetric or specialist facilities it must be classed as being due to pregnancy.

CASE II. "Congestive Cardiac Failure ; Mitral Stenosis ; Chorea ; Pyelitis ; Confinement."

This death was neither preventable nor due to (though associated with) pregnancy.

CASE III. "Cortical Necrosis due to Eclampsia due to Pregnancy."

This death was unpreventable but directly attributable to pregnancy.

CASE IV. "Pulmonary Air Embolism due to confinement due to Pregnancy."

This death was unpreventable but attributable to pregnancy.

CASE V. “Intestinal Obstruction; Mesenteric Thrombosis, following Confinement.”

This death was unpreventable and, in the opinion of the consultant obstetrician, not due to pregnancy.

CASE VI. “Anuria due to Renal Cortical Necrosis due to Toxaemia; Accidental Haemorrhage of Pregnancy.”

This death was due to pregnancy and, in the opinion of the obstetric consultant, might have been prevented.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births</i>	<i>Total</i>
Doctors	4	—	4
Midwives	1124	23	1147
Parents and others	1313	48	1361
<hr/>			
TOTALS	2441	71	2512
<hr/>			

Still Births.—The number of still births registered during the year was 71 the number allocated to the Borough was 53. The Borough cases were investigated with a view to ascertainment of cause.

The appended Table gives particulars with reference to their possible and probable causes :—

<i>Cause.</i>	<i>No. of Still Births.</i>
1. Complications of labour	8
2. Placenta Praevia	2
3. Toxaemias of Pregnancy—	
Albuminuria	13
4. Maternal Diseases—	
(a) Maternal Shock	1
5. Foetal states (excluding Syphilis)—	
(a) Hydrocephalus	2
(b) Craniotomy	2
(c) Macerated	4
(d) Anencephalic	3
(e) Cord round neck	3
6. Prematurity	9
7. B.B.A. Inattention at Birth	2
8. Abnormal Placenta	3
8. Unascertained	1
<hr/>	
TOTAL	53
<hr/>	

Neo-Natal Deaths.—During the year 42 infants died within one month of life. 10 of the deaths were ascribed to foetal states, 19 to prematurity, and the remaining 13 to post-natal causes.

Premature Births.—140 premature infants were born during 1948 to mothers whose homes are in the borough. 121 were alive at the end of the year.

Causes of Prematurity :—

Albuminuria	8
Ill-health of mother	16
Multiple pregnancy	23
Not known	87
Inuduction	2
Placenta Praevia	1
Accident to Mother	3
	<hr/>
	140
	<hr/>

Prematures born in hospital are there retained until their physical condition is such that the mother, with the assistance of the Health Visitors and other resources of the Health Department, might reasonably be expected to rear the children at home.

Special oversight of premature children, who are nursed at home, is exercised by the health visiting staff. Electric blankets, hot water bottles, additional clothing, etc., are available as required.

Infantile Mortality.—During the year there were 67 deaths of infants. This figure corresponds to an infantile mortality rate of 36·8 per 1,000 live births registered, compared with 41·8 in 1946 and 41·0 in 1947.

Of the deaths registered 64 were of legitimate and three of illegitimate children. The rate of infantile mortality amongst legitimate infants was 36·8 per 1,000 legitimate births registered, and amongst illegitimate children 36·6 per 1,000 illegitimate births registered.

Of the deaths certified 42, or 62·7%, occurred within the first month of life. The more important causes of these deaths were as follows :—

<i>Cause.</i>	<i>Number of Deaths.</i>
Premature Birth	19
Congenital defect	11
Pneumonia	9

COMPARISON OF BLACKBURN INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE WITH THAT OF
ENGLAND AND WALES FROM 1938—1947

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Blackburn.....	67	57	77	52	63	58	45	60	42	41	36
England & Wales	53	50	55	59	49	49	46	46	43	41	34

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Fourteen cases were notified during the year. In four cases the confinements had taken place at home, and ten in Institutions, of which two were out-of-Borough cases.

Of the twelve Borough cases, in eleven cases vision was unimpaired, whilst one case removed from the district.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.—There are nine Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the Borough, situated at Princess Street, Bolton Road, Kendal Street, Griffin Parochial Hall, Bentham Street, Cornelian Street, Hozier Street, Lower Darwen, and Church of the Saviour, Longshaw. Two sessions are held each week at Hozier Street, Kendal Street and Princess Street. The Lower Darwen Clinic is held once each fortnight.

In the following Table it will be noted that the attendances numbered 43,205 compared with 39,443 in 1947.

TABLE 30

	Princes Street	Hozier Street (2 sessions weekly)	Bolton Road	Kendal Street (2 sessions weekly)	Griffin	Cornelian Street	Bentham Street	Lower Darwen	Longshaw	TOTAL
INFANTS—										
New cases under 1 year	212	299	168	280	140	128	89	36	32	1384
No. of re-attendances	5397	6446	3376	5578	2927	2551	2245	611	254	29385
New cases over 1 year	28	33	14	26	5	28	1	2	4	141
No. of re-attendances	2599	1770	1474	1423	1393	1331	990	461	82	11523
Attendances of Infants	8236	8548	5032	7307	4465	4038	3325	1110	372	42433
Consultations with Doctor	1591	1762	1115	1542	697	738	630	200	112	8387
EXPECTANT MOTHERS										
No. of new cases	69	40	2	11	22	20	15	3	4	186
No. of re-attendances	206	123	15	20	90	49	61	21	1	586
Total Attendances of Expectant Mothers	275	163	17	31	112	69	76	24	5	772
Total Attendances	8511	8711	5049	7338	4577	4107	3401	1134	377	43205
Average Attendance of infants per session.....	89	87	100	75	89	111	70	48	45	*900

* Total average attendance *each week* at all Centres.

Of the live births notified during the year 1,384 or 75·7% attended the Infantile Consultation Centres.

DENTAL TREATMENT OF MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CASES.

Mr. H. Yates, the Senior Dental Surgeon, carried out the following work in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare Cases :—

	1947	1948
Number of Sessions held	74	104
Number of Patients : Mothers	143	185
Children	40	110
Permanent Teeth Extracted	139	352
Permanent Teeth Filled	49	29
Temporary Teeth Extracted	44	174
Temporary Teeth Filled	7	46
Other Operations.....	31	28
General Anaesthetics	50	99

Seven patients were recommended and supplied with dentures (5 Full Upper, 3 Full Lower and 3 partial dentures).

At the end of the year, eleven patients were awaiting treatment.

TABLE 31

FEEDING OF INFANTS UP TO SIX MONTHS OF AGE—

Condition at end of 6 months	Number of infants investigated	Breast fed entirely	BREAST FEEDING ALONE UP TO END OF					BREAST FEEDING JOINTLY WITH ARTIFICIAL UP TO END OF						Artificial fed entirely	Not fed	
			3 weeks	1st month	2nd month	3rd month	4th month	5th month	1st month	2nd month	3rd month	4th month	5th month			6th month
Satisfactory	1632	494	60	154	125	114	93	37	37	45	50	25	11	9	378	—
Fairly Satisfactory	122	5	10	13	4	4	—	1	12	4	—	—	—	—	69	—
Unsatisfactory: ...	23	—	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—
Dead	59	17	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	21
	1836	516	76	171	131	119	93	39	49	49	50	25	11	9	477	21

Care of Illegitimate Children.—No direct provision is made by the Corporation for the care of illegitimate children or unmarried mothers. A grant is however, made to the Blackburn Diocesan Moral Welfare Council for this work, and the Health Department have maintained a close co-operation with the Authorities of Viewfield Hostel which, up to 31st August, 1946, was provided and maintained by the Diocesan Council for this purpose.

In 1946 the Diocesan Council decided that Viewfield was no longer suitable or adequate and ceased to use the premises as a Hostel on the 31st August of that year. They have since sold these premises and purchased more suitable premises which are situated in the Administrative County area and which were expected to be ready for occupation during 1947. Due to the shortage of labour and materials, however, the adaptation has not yet been completed.

Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children—Maternity beds are provided at Springfield Municipal Maternity Home and Queen's Park Hospital.

Special accommodation is available for infants and children at both the Royal Infirmary and Queen's Park Hospital.

THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILD.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CHILDREN FROM ONE TO FIVE YEARS OF AGE

	1947	1948
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	4	2
Infectious Diseases (Non-Tubercular)	5	—
Tuberculosis (all forms)	1	2
Digestive System Diseases	—	1
All other causes	11	6
	—	—
TOTALS	21	11
	—	—

There are now 32 Nursery Classes in Blackburn, with approximate accommodation for 1250 children under the age of five years. The work carried out at these classes has been fully described in the School Medical Report.

BOARDED OUT CHILDREN UNDER
“ THE CHILD LIFE PROTECTION ACT.”

Total Visits to Boarded Out Children	26
No. of Children on the Register on December 31st, 1947....	4
Now cases during the Year	—
Transferred to either Parent	3
(a) In the Borough	3
(b) Out of the Borough	—
At present in the Borough	1
(a) Found satisfactory	1
(b) Unsatisfactory	—
Adopted by Foster Parent	—
Died in the Borough	—
On the Register on December 31st, 1948	1

THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME, 99 PRESTON NEW ROAD.

No. on the Register on December 31st, 1947	5
No. who attained the age of 9 years during 1948	—
No. admitted during the year	1
No. on the Register on December 31st, 1948	6

NAZARETH HOUSE, PRESTON NEW ROAD.

Children have not been accepted during the year.

Inspection duties were undertaken by the Health Visiting Staff, who visit each case at least once in every six weeks. All the children have been found to be well cared for.

Daily Guardians. From the 1st April, 1946, the Ministry of Labour ceased to be responsible for the administration of the Daily Guardians Scheme and the Town Council then assumed responsibility

The Scheme provides for the registration of persons caring for infants during the day whilst the parents are at work and, in respect of each case registered, the Council pay 4/- per week to the guardian as a contribution towards the amount agreed to be paid by the parents.

At the beginning of 1948, 440 guardians were caring for 505 children. During the year there were 1,091 new applications of which 1,052 were approved. Five hundred and eighty four cases were removed from the register and at the end of the year, 908 guardians were caring for 1,002 children. During the period £6,860 15s. 8d. was paid by the Council to 1,492 guardians.

Day Nurseries. The following Table gives particulars of the Day Nursery accommodation in the Borough, together with the number of children on the register and attendances during 1948.

The children arrive at the Nurseries before 7-30 a.m., and leave after 5-30 p.m. All meals are provided and the older children are given some educational instruction. A proportion of the children attending the Day Nurseries at St. Albans Place and Intack are conveyed to and from the Nurseries by transport provided by the Council.

A charge of 1/6 per day is made to the parents of each child attending the Nurseries

The Matrons of Holden House and St. Alban's Place Day Nurseries attended Refresher Courses held in Manchester.

Nursery Nurses Training. Six Students commenced a 2-year training for Nursery Nurses with the Lancashire County Council at Penwortham Centre.

Six Students were admitted to a course of training arranged by the Lancashire County Council at their centre in Accrington, and all students received the Child Care Reserve Certificate.

One Nursery Assistant holding the Child Care Reserve Certificate attended a course in Manchester and obtained a Warden's Certificate.

TABLE 32

	St. Alban's Place	Holden House	Intack	Total
Number of Approved places ...	60	31	40	131
0—2 years ...	20	7	...	27
2—5 years ...	40	24	40	104
Number of Children on the Register at end of year ...	59	30	36	125
0—2 years ...	14	7	...	21
2—5 years ...	45	23	36	104
Total Attendances during the year ...	11263	5737	6394	23394
0—2 years ...	2283	941	...	3224
2—5 years ...	8980	4796	6394	20170

SECTION 23. MIDWIFERY.

Sixty eight midwives, all of whom are State Certified, notified their intention to practise during 1948.

On December 31st, 1948, there was one independent midwife, twenty-three midwives attached to the District Nurses' Home, and seven Municipal midwives on the register.

There are no private Maternity Homes in Blackburn.

MEDICAL AID FORMS RECEIVED DURING 1948.

Pre-natal conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Abnormalities of labour	...	...	...	...	...	...	190
Post-natal conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Infants' defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
							<hr/>
Total	..	..	..	.	.	.	297
							<hr/>

Since the Midwives Act 1936, the District Nursing Association have acted as the Council's agents for the purpose of domiciliary midwifery.

These arrangements proved so satisfactory that they have continued under the National Health Service Act.

During the year the Municipal Midwives attended a total of 686 births of which number 349 received gas-air analgesia. This form of treatment is available to all who are medically certified during the ante-natal period as fit to receive it.

Seven full time municipal midwives are employed for the purposes of the service and the Queens Nurses are available in emergencies and as reliefs.

No. of confinements attended during 1948 by Municipal Midwives	...	...	686
No. of confinements at which a doctor was also present	...	...	122
No. of confinements attended by Midwife alone	...	...	564
No. of visits paid by midwives	...	...	11483

BLACKBURN AND DISTRICT
HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

MATERNITY STATISTICS, 1948.

	<i>Springfield</i>	<i>Q.P. H.</i>
Number of Maternity beds available on 31st December, 1948 (excluding isolation and labour beds, but including beds reserved for the treatment of ante-natal complications of pregnancy)	20	59
Average daily occupation	17	43
Average duration of stay	11 days	9.9. days
Number of Maternity cases admitted during the year	436	1684
Number of Maternal deaths	Nil.	7
Number of births—(a) Live	416	1307
(b) Still	5	47
Number of deaths of infants born in Hospital who died there within 28 days of birth	5	36
Number of infants who received a supplementary or comple- mentary feed whilst in Hospital (excluding those given during the first three or four days whilst breast feeding was being established)	69	126
Number of infants discharged during the year who were wholly breast fed	352	1185

Out-Patients.

Number of new patients during the year	373	1072
Total attendances	2223	5136

Blackburn Royal Infirmary.

Total Number of available beds	244
Total Number of new cases admitted to the Out-patient Gynaecological Clinic	812
Total Number of attendances at the Out-patient Gynaecological Clinic	1694

SECTION 24. HEALTH VISITING.

The work of the Health Visitors has been little affected by the Act.

A detailed description of their activities is set out above under the heading "Care of Mothers and Young Children." Page 78.

SECTION 25. HOME NURSING.

The District Nursing Association prior to the appointed day ran a comprehensive home nursing service and, as a matter of course, were invited to carry on for the purpose of the National Health Service Act.

Due to the energy and efficiency of the Association's Staff the arrangements have functioned without hitch and have met the frequent emergency calls of the Health Department promptly and effectively.

The Blackburn Association deserves the high reputation which it enjoys and probably has fewer staff difficulties than the majority of its sister organisations. The latter fact is due to the enlightened way in which the Committee administer the Home and to the measures they have always taken to improve the working and living conditions of the staff.

The appended Table gives particulars of the work carried out by the District Nursing Association during 1948 :—

TABLE 33
HOME NURSING BY DISTRICT NURSES.

DISEASE	On books Jan. 1st 1948	New Cases	Cured	Died	Hospital	Other Causes	Remain- ing end of 1948	Visits
Measles	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	7
Tuberculosis	—	19	5	8	.....	5	1	383
Pneumonia	5	74	61	4	6	4	4	1495
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	73
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	10
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	36

In 1948 there were 300 more general cases and a corresponding increase in the number of visits.

Male nurses have been introduced on the District, 6 Queens' candidates being trained since March 1948 and proving very satisfactory and helpful. A definite need has been found for these nurses, and when the present candidates have completed training it will be necessary to appoint a permanent male nurse to the staff.

When the new National Health Service Act came into force on 5th July, work in the rural area was discontinued, but this has been more than made up by the extra work on the District.

SECTION 26. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Set out below are particulars of the work done in accordance with the above section.

During 1948 only 2 cases of clinical diphtheria occurred in Blackburn. Neither of them was bacteriologically confirmed.

At the end of 1948, 54.7% of children under five years and 91.4% of children aged 5-15 years had received diphtheria prophylactic treatment.

Immunisation was carried out at all Welfare Centres, at the Health Department, and at the Schools.

The majority of mothers in regular attendance at the Child Welfare Centres readily assent to the immunisation of their infants. Those who do not attend the Welfare Centres neglect this wise precaution until their children begin to attend school. We then get a ninety per cent. acceptance rate.

In the latter part of the year a choice of diphtheria immunisation alone or combined diphtheria-whooping cough treatment was offered. Due, in part, to the somewhat more severe reactions and to the extra injection required, there was some failure to complete the full course of treatment when the combined prophylactic was given. Another factor which led to non-completion of treatment was that some of the children developed measles or whooping cough during the two months required to complete the immunisation.

As was suggested in my report for 1947, the percentage of children returned as "Primary" Inoculations has proved to be on the high side.

Accordingly all immunisation records have been checked and duplicates eliminated. It was then found that a proportion of the children immunised earlier in life had subsequently been re-immunised but had been entered as "Primary" immunisation, as their parents had not disclosed that the children in question had already had a complete course of treatment.

The figures quoted below more truly represent the immunisation rate than those previously given.

TABLE 34.
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Age.	Number completed in 1948.	Number completed prior to 1948.	Number immunised to end of 1948.	
		Children under 5.		
1	1237	—	1237	Population
2	77	959	1036	Ages 1—5
3	48	1023	1071	8282
4	103	1086	1189	
	<hr/> 1465 <hr/>	<hr/> 3068 <hr/>	<hr/> 4533 <hr/>	54·7% of above population.
		Children 5 to 15.		
5	91	901	992	
6	77	1101	1178	
7	70	1066	1136	Population
8	68	1128	1196	5—15
9	77	1125	1202	12,898
10	61	1210	1271	
11	52	1158	1210	
12	9	1189	1198	
13	8	1238	1246	
14	10	1154	1164	
	<hr/> 523 <hr/>	<hr/> 11270 <hr/>	<hr/> 11793 <hr/>	91·4% of above population.
Total ... Ages 1-15	1988	14338	16326	

In addition to the children included in this table, 2193 children who had been previously immunised received re-inforcing injections.

TABLE 35.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

TREATMENTS COMPLETED EACH YEAR FROM 1937 TO 1948.

Age in years on 31st December of corres- ponding year.	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
1	9	36	3	4	284	543	762	667	930	866	959	1237
2	4	20	18	6	205	306	187	145	136	108	157	77
3	22	56	31	12	296	330	174	57	76	80	48	48
4	25	99	34	8	418	382	212	101	117	113	150	103
5	53	160	44	2	599	256	215	106	160	106	123	91
6	24	140	47	2	583	168	187	100	130	86	155	77
7	23	161	44	3	503	127	115	78	125	116	117	70
8	18	117	42	2	500	97	128	71	120	85	106	68
9	15	109	20	3	550	87	118	79	113	77	103	77
10	12	84	27	1	484	73	99	71	127	59	89	61
11	17	98	15	1	462	47	58	31	113	57	72	52
12	10	53	1	2	536	26	33	24	159	49	76	9
13	13	66	1	2	399	20	36	33	148	35	58	8
14	5	5	...	...	96	...	11	5	64	8	31	10
15+	...	...	...	...	116	...	...	3	...	...	4	...
TOTAL ...	250	1204	327	48	6031	2462	2335	1571	2518	1845	2248	1988

Vaccinations are done by Medical Officers of the Department at the various Child Welfare Centres and also at a special clinic held at the Victoria Street premises.

The appended Table gives particulars of vaccinations performed.

The comparatively large number of vaccinations done at Park Lee was in respect of contacts of a case which died at Park Lee Hospital of an obscure condition which occasioned some suspicion of small-pox. Subsequent events, happily, did not confirm that suspicion.

TABLE 36.

VACCINATION RETURNS, 1948

	Age	Private Doctors	Centres (including Victoria Street)	Park Lee Hospital	Total.
Vaccinations					
Prior to July 5th.....	—	—	—	—	255
	under 1	82	91	—	173
	1	—	6	—	6
Vaccinations :	2	3	—	—	3
July 5th—	3	2	—	—	2
December 31st.	4	—	—	—	—
	5	1	—	—	1
	over 5	38	142	90	270
		126	239	90	710

SECTION 27. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Section 27 of the National Health Service Act states :—

“ It shall be the duty of every local health authority to secure that ambulances and other means of transport are available, where necessary, for the conveyance of persons suffering from illness or mental defectiveness or expectant or nursing mothers from places in their area to places in or outside their area.”

In other words, it is the obligation of the Authority in whose area the need arises to provide an ambulance for any patient needing such transport whether the person transported be a resident of the area or not.

Blackburn is the hospital catchment area serving a population of approximately 260,000 persons of which number over half live outside the Borough. The fact that the Borough is required to remove non-Borough patients from local hospitals to their homes has led to a large increase of ambulance running.

Another cause of the increased mileage run is that prior to July 5th many patients found their way to and from hospitals either in the private cars of friends or relatives or by arrangement with local taxi-proprietors. Since the appointed day this practice has, to all intents and purposes, ceased in favour of the free service provided by the Authority.

In consequence of these growing demands plus a reduction of weekly hours worked (44 hours instead of 48) by the personnel additional staff have had to be engaged. This, together with a mileage which has increased almost twofold since 1946/1947 has greatly run up the cost of the service.

In the latter period the average monthly mileage run by the Addison St. vehicles was 3,295; during the six months, July—December, 1948, the monthly mileage run by the same vehicles averaged 5,340.

There is no doubt that the “area of need” factor operates harshly upon those authorities whose areas provide comprehensive hospital facilities. For this reason the burden of ambulance provision should be more fairly spread over all areas than is now the case.

TABLE 37.
AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Details of mileage run and patients carried from 5th July to 31st December, 1948

	No. of vehicles at end of year.	Total No. of calls.	Total No. of patients carried.	No. of Emergency Calls.	Mileage
Directly Provided Service :					
Ambulances	10	7399	7150	2099	42595
Cars	—	—	—	—	—
Supplementary Services :					
Ambulances	★	—	—	—	—
Cars	★	110	110	—	4536
		7509	7260	2099	47131

NOTE : ★ The Supplementary Services include the service of one car provided by the Women's Voluntary Service and vehicles supplied through the Motor Vehicles Service Station.

SECTION 28. PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

(1) Loan of Equipment.

As the Health Authority had difficulty in finding premises for the loan of equipment to persons being nursed at home, the District Nursing Association co-operated actively, yet unofficially, from the Nurses' Home. This arrangement worked well and tided over the difficulties of the Health Department, but increased those of the Nursing Association due to lack of storage space at the Home and the calls made upon their staff. I am much indebted to Miss Spokes for her help which enabled the loan arrangement to function.

Accommodation, since obtained at the Spiritualist Temple (which immediately adjoins the Nursing Home) is ample to meet loan requirement and will be used for clerical duties connected with the domiciliary nursing and midwifery services, and thereby enable the Association to give up the tenancy of premises rented in Mill Lane for the latter purposes.

The loan arrangements will be under the direct supervision of Miss McArthur who is also responsible for certain clerical duties connected with the Association's work, and will be closely tied up with Domiciliary Nursing, Midwifery and Domestic Help schemes.

(2) Convalescent Treatment.

As part of their "After-Care" arrangements the Local Health Authority will bear the whole or part of the cost (according to the means of the recipient) of maintenance at suitable homes of persons in need of recuperative rest but who do not require medical or nursing care. The latter provision is a hospital service, is the responsibility of the Regional Board and is free of cost.

(3) Mental Illness or Defectiveness.

There are 218 mental defectives on the register. Of this number 5 are under guardianship, 15 under voluntary supervision, and 58 under statutory supervision.

These cases are visited regularly by a lady Authorised Officer who has a wide experience of the social care of mental defectives, and once every six months by a Medical Officer of the Health Department.

Shortly after the appointed day a detailed survey of persons on the register was made by a Medical Officer of this Department. The main object of the survey was to ascertain how many, if any, of the defectives would benefit by

admission to the Occupation Centre (described on page 111 of this report). This object was not attained due to the parents of the few cases considered suitable withholding consent to their admission. However, the survey was useful as it gave us a clear-cut picture of the situation, brought the register up to date and enabled us to cut out some "dead wood."

The only difficulties experienced as regards administration of this service have been to secure admission of short-order cases (particularly women) and of certain defectives to suitable institutions. This state of affairs is not peculiar to Blackburn but applies to the country as a whole.

(5) Provision of Meals in the Home.

The Health Committee have decided that, as part of their after-care arrangements, meals will be taken to the homes of certain persons covered by Section 28 of the Act. The preliminary aim is to provide two or three hot mid-day meals per week to such persons who otherwise could not obtain one.

The arrangements will be closely linked with the domestic help service and will be under the immediate supervision of the domestic help organiser.

The Civic Catering Department will prepare the meals at the Bridgewater Street Depot whence they will be despatched in individual "double-decker" containers, one compartment of which will hold the meat and the other, the sweet course. The containers are capable of easy cleansing and sterilising.

Distribution will be by a Health Department Van, fitted with a Calor Gas cupboard, the driver picking up the empty containers on his return journey. A double journey for delivery and collection may appear extravagant but has been decided upon to prevent improper use of or damage to the containers and to permit their being thoroughly cleansed before any "left overs" become closely adherent.

At the outset existing staff will be able to deal with the transport, though as the scheme extends—as it will—an additional driver may prove necessary.

Whole or part-cost of the meals (plus a percentage to cover overhead charges) will be recovered from the recipients according to their means.

The scheme will first of all cover the aged sick including those who should be in hospital but cannot gain admission due to staffed bed shortage, and, when it once gets over its teething troubles, will be extended to sub-acute and convalescent cases, to tuberculous cases under domiciliary care and to others with entitlement.

The third, and most ambitious, stage of the proposal is the provision of special diets recommended by hospital out-patient department or family doctor.

The scheme will be complementary to the domiciliary nursing and midwifery services, and will be run in conjunction with the domestic help service.

The "meals on wheels" scheme will save the domestic helps the time which they now spend on meal preparation and thus enable them to cover more households than is possible at present.

To sum up the scope and objects of the proposal :—

- (1) It will not be a "Restaurant Car" arrangement but will be applied only to those showing actual need.
 - (2) It will be closely supervised by the domestic help organiser who will act on information received from hospital, home nursing and midwifery services, family doctor, and on reports received from other sources.
 - (3) A charge will be made according to means.
 - (4) It will tide over the needs, often acute, of certain aged sick awaiting admission to hospital, of the convalescent, of expectant and lying-in mothers and of other ailing sections of the community, and
 - (5) It will effect an estimated daily saving of one hour's time of each domestic help and make the latter service more mobile than is now the case.
- (6) Preventive and After-Care arrangements for Persons suffering from Tuberculosis.**

The work of the Local Health Authority and of the Chest Clinic is closely co-ordinated. I am indebted to Dr. Charnock, Consultant Chest Physician to this Area, for the complete and helpful information which he passes to the Health Department.

There has been little demand for the loan of equipment through the Health Department to tuberculous patients, such loans being automatically made by the District Nursing Association and Chest Clinics where need exists.

As part of their after-care arrangements the Authority gives priority to tubercular applicants for Corporation Houses, who are recommended as "urgencies" by the Health Department. Unfortunately the housing position

necessitates a somewhat rigid standard of assessment. Though one would like to see all such applicants housed in pleasant and open surroundings the criteria for recommendation are, generally, as follows :—

Are the present housing conditions (1) Such as are likely to lead to infection of others in the household ? ; or (2) Prejudicial to recovery of the patient ?

When the housing position becomes easier the assessment standard will be relaxed and the urgency of need standard be more generously interpreted than is, at present, possible.

The Authority has recently made provision for the rehabilitation of Service Personnel suffering from Tuberculosis and to this end will utilise the facilities provided at the British Legion Village.

SECTION 29. DOMESTIC HELPS.

The Local Authority employed domestic helps before the appointed day.

At the end of 1947 there were on the register four Home Helps. One new Help was engaged during 1948, but, as two had resigned, three remained at the end of the year.

During the year, the following work was carried out :—

						<i>Home Helps</i>
No. of cases	...	...	...	...	...	40
No. of weeks employed	...	...	...	...	...	93
No. of hours employed	...	...	...	...	...	2831½

The Home Helps are paid by the Council at an hourly rate, and charges are recovered according to the circumstances of the household.

It is difficult to recruit women suitable for this class of work, and the Committee will shortly appoint a full-time organiser whose main task will be recruitment, supervision, allocation and general “cheek-up,” and the control of the home-meals service previously described.

To improve the status and prestige of the helps, entrants into the service will undergo a course covering such subjects as simple cookery, laundry, sick-room hygiene and management and various other matters germane to their work.

Owing to hospital bed-shortage a proportion of aged sick persons, some of whom live alone and are without available relatives or friends, have to remain at home. Provision of a domestic help assists little in such cases, as the present service is available only during ordinary working hours and never over the week-end. It is regrettable that the service should (through circumstances outside the control of the Authority) be so restricted.

The bed-ridden aged require constant attention if they are to be spared personal injury. Certainly they should not be left unattended (as under existing arrangements certain of them may well be) during the night.

Some form of "sitting-in" service should be devised to cover periods during which domestic helps are not ordinarily available. Arrangements on these lines may be difficult to organise. Still the possibility should be carefully investigated.

SECTION 51. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

Mental Illness.

In July, the Health Committee became responsible for the administration of the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938, and of the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930, in the Borough of Blackburn. To carry out these duties a Mental Health Sub-Committee consisting of five members including one co-opted member who is a medical practitioner was appointed.

At the commencement of the service two former Relieving Officers who had had experience under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, were appointed Duly Authorised Officers. To provide a twenty-four hour service for emergency calls, they worked a rota of duties, each in turn attending these calls for one week.

A full-time clerk was also appointed, but, difficulties in working the rota of duties for Authorised Officers at times when sickness or holidays necessitated one being off duty led to this clerk being appointed part-time Authorised Officer.

The Authorised Officers also undertake the duties of Welfare Visitors for Mental Defectives.

A Lady Mental Welfare Worker was also appointed in conjunction with Burnley County Borough; she devotes half her time to each borough.

The Authorised Officers and the Mental Welfare Worker have attended a short course in mental health held at Calderstones Mental Defective Institution. The two full-time Authorised Officers also took a course in Manchester organised by the University of Manchester in conjunction with the National Association for Mental Health.

At present but few cases of mental illness are referred to our visitors in the early stages, but there is no doubt that the Mental Health Service will be asked to help increasing numbers of such cases as it becomes better known.

Assistance was obtained for many senile cases, who being referred to the Authorised Officers were found to be not certifiable.

After-care of cases is undertaken by all the officers, and during the half-year under review, six patients were assisted. In every case an enquiry is made whether after-care visits would be desired. Few cases refuse. Both after-care and domiciliary cases were assisted in finding suitable employment with the help of the Labour Exchange. Thirty-eight visits were made for the purposes of after-care, and eleven visits were made at the request of hospital authorities to obtain histories of cases in various hospitals.

The National Association for Mental Health has been requested to continue the after-care of service personnel, thus maintaining continuity of care for these cases.

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

The work of the Duly Authorised Officers has been hampered to some extent by the difficulty in finding hospital accommodation, much time being wasted in searching for vacant beds when emergency cases require admission. At the end of the year there were 12 cases awaiting admission.

The Authorised Officers made arrangements for the admission of two voluntary and three temporary patients. The power to admit such patients is of a value greater than these figures (5 cases) would indicate. No less than fifteen voluntary patients were admitted to hospital direct from the Psychiatric Out-patient Clinic of the Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary.

TABLE 38.

Statistics. Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930.

	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Total</i>
Patients known to be in-patients of Mental Hospitals			
July 5th	227	104	331
In-patients Queen's Park Hospital on July 5th	12	9	21
Observation cases admitted under Section 20 and 21.....	40	25	65
Observation cases—			
Discharged not certifiable	17	12	29
Deceased whilst under observation	2	3	5
Cases admitted to Mental Hospitals—			
(a) Section 16	22	3	25
(b) Voluntary	0	2	2
(c) Temporary	2	1	3
Voluntary cases admitted to Mental Hospitals by private arrangement	9	6	15
Discharged from Mental Hospitals	14	7	21
Deceased in Mental Hospitals	7	0	7
Cases investigated as Mental Illness but removed as sick persons	1	0	1

TABLE 39.

CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL BY AUTHORISED OFFICERS.
JULY TO DECEMBER, 1948.

HOSPITAL.	Section 20 3-day order		Section 21 14-day order		Section 16 Certified cases		Voluntary patients		Temporary patients		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Queen's Park Blackburn	24	37	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	39
Rossendale General	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whittingham ...	—	—	—	—	2	5	2	—	—	—	4	5
Lancaster	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	1	2	1	14
Prestwich	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	1	4
TOTAL	24	38	1	2	3	22	2	—	1	2	31	64

In addition to the above, 15 Voluntary patients (6 Male and 9 Female)
were admitted to Hospital direct.

TABLE 40.**Mental Defectiveness.****ASCERTAINMENT :**

The majority of cases are brought to notice by the Education Department after examination by the School Medical Officers.

The total number of cases ascertained during the period 5th July to 31st December, was seventeen, and details are shown below :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cases reported by Local Education Authority under Section 57 (3)	5	4	9
Cases reported by Local Education Authority under Section 57 (5)	1	2	3
Cases reported by other Local Authorities	1	—	1
Cases ascertained from other sources	1	3	4
Total number of cases reported	8	9	17

DISPOSAL OF CASES REPORTED :—

Admitted to Institution.....	1	4	5
Placed under Guardianship	—	—	—
Taken to “ Place of Safety ”	1*	—	—
Placed under Statutory Supervision	5	4	9
Placed under Voluntary Supervision	1	2	3
Awaiting Institutional Treatment	—	—	5†

* Taken to “ place of safety ” and later removed to institution.

† These cases ascertained before July 5th, 1948.

Institutional Treatment of Mental Defectives.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Patients known to be in Institutions on July 5th, 1948	72	58	130
Patients admitted to Institutions July 5th to December 31st, 1948	1	4	5
Patients known to have died in Institutions	3	—	3
Patients discharged from Institutions	—	—	—

Nineteen visits were made for the purpose of completing social and home reports on reported cases and eight visits were also made at the request of Institutions to obtain further histories.

The investigation of home circumstances on the behalf of institutions before the granting of short-licence entailed 25 visits.

Five (2 male and 3 female) guardianship cases taken over on July 5th have been visited by the Medical Officer and by the Mental Health Visitors, who made ten visits and reports on these cases. Four guardians received financial aid from the Committee in 1948.

Sixty-four visits were made to the 58 cases under Statutory Supervision and 68 to those under Voluntary Supervision in the period under review.

Visits to cases on licence from institutions numbered sixteen.

A re-organisation of the records has been undertaken in order to facilitate the regular follow-up of patients.

TABLE 41.

Mental Defectives under care at home on 31st December, 1948.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under Guardianship	2	3	5
In " places of safety "	—	—	—
Under Statutory Supervision	36	22	58
Under Voluntary Supervision	8	7	15

Visits paid by Mental Welfare Workers to Mental Defectives :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
To Cases under Guardianship	5	5	10
Statutory Supervision	28	36	64
Voluntary Supervision	35	33	68
on licence from Institutions	4	12	16
To obtain histories of cases in Institutions	2	6	8
To report on home circumstances before grant of short licence	13	12	25
To report on home circumstances for Institutions	9	10	19
	96	114	210

Training of Mental Defectives in the Community.

The training of mental defectives living at home is carried out in the Occupation Centre. Attendance at the centre is voluntary. Although there is frequently some opposition from the parents of suitable cases when first approached they eventually see the advantage of training in good personal habits, self control and simple occupations taught in the centre. At present attendance is limited to those cases capable of travelling by public service conveyance, the assistant supervisor meeting the pupils at the Railway or Bus Station and escorting them to the Centre.

This centre was taken over on July 5th complete with its staff of two. Very useful work in training those unfit for education in any type of school has been done, in spite of the difficulties inherent in unsuitable buildings and shortages of equipment following years of war when replacements and new material could not be obtained.

Children and young persons from both Blackburn and the neighbouring County Areas are admitted. All the pupils are provided with a mid-day dinner, financial assistance being given to those parents unable to pay the full cost.

Between July 5th and the end of the year the centre was open on eighty-five days with an average attendance of 12.3. The maximum number of pupils on any one day was fifteen and the minimum eight. On December 31st there were seven cases from Blackburn and nine cases from the County Area on the register.

The buildings consist of two small terrace houses with very small yards at the back and no gardens. They are far from suitable for the purpose of an Occupation Centre. Search for more suitable premises has so far proved fruitless.

Ambulance Service.

The facilities of the general Ambulance Service are available for the conveyance of mental cases.

PART VIII.

Miscellaneous.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations.

The following Table gives details of specimens submitted by the Health Department during the year :—

TABLE 42**Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary.**

Specimens in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal									
Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
Specimens of Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	577
Specimens in connection with Infectious Diseases :—									
Tubercle Bacilli (Sputa)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	426
Diphtheria Bacilli	...	}	...	...	...	...	...	...	308
Haemolytic Streptococci	...								
Enteric (Widals)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Enteric (Other secretions)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cerebro spinal fluid...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Other specimens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	691

Manchester University.

Specimens in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal									
Diseases	2671

Edinburgh University.

Aschheim-Zondek	14
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I am indebted to Dr. M. S. Spink for the following Report on the work of the Pathology Department, Royal Infirmary, Blackburn, during 1948 :—

“ This Department of the Royal Infirmary undertakes every kind of investigation related to the diagnosis, progress and cure of disease ; with the exception of pure chemical analysis of foodstuffs, and the Wassermann Reactions in connection with the Venereal Disease. The method of accounting the work done is on a “ unit ” basis—each item of work done being given a value of so many units according to the estimated time consumed in completing it.

For the first time for a number of years the output has not risen far above that of the preceding year ; approximately 103,000 units of work being done.

General clinical pathology accounted for the greater part of this—over seventy thousand units—chiefly for patients in or at the Royal Infirmary ; but also for many cases of private doctors. Practitioners are encouraged to

send patients themselves or pathological material from patients direct to the Pathology Department ; and in a fair number of cases where this was impracticable, the Pathology Department Staff was able to visit the patient at home. Thirty-eight such visits were paid, besides which thirty calls were made at Institutions other than Queen's Park Hospital which is daily visited.

The public health service of the Borough entailed 17,000 units of work ; and other local Authorities in all had another 4,000 units of work done for them. It seems certain that this item—local Authorities other than Blackburn—is bound to increase, and is already increasing ; because up to the middle of the year, Authorities were either paying the Infirmary, or more commonly, Manchester University, for the examination of samples of water, milk, etc. The Health Service organisation now is geared to provide all, or almost all, such facilities within the area. Hence Local Authorities must now get this work done here ; and being free of financial considerations are likely to feel encouraged to avail themselves of the facilities on a scale at which they have hitherto hesitated.

The diagnosis of Venereal Diseases has made considerably less demand than formerly ; the unit value of examinations for this purpose having fallen to less than 5,000, well below the peak year of 1946.

We have, since the close of 1948, shed one considerable responsibility, viz. : the Blood Transfusion work. During the year under review we took 1,300 bottles of blood, of which about 500 were used in the Royal Infirmary and in this area generally. The National Transfusion Service based on the Manchester Royal Infirmary will hence-forward conduct this valuable enterprise with a mobile team operating from the centre. In this respect we fall in line with what is the general rule throughout the country."

CONTENTS.

PART	I. VITAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.....	9			
"	II. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES	17			
"	III. FOOD SUPPLY	31			
"	IV. INFECTIOUS DISEASES	53			
"	V. TUBERCULOSIS SCHEME	65			
"	VI. VENEREAL DISEASES	73			
"	VII. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT.....	77			
"	VIII. MISCELLANEOUS.....	113			

	<i>Page</i>			<i>Page</i>
Ambulance Services	99, 111	Health Visitors	5, 94	
Ante-Natal Care	79	Home Helps	104	
Bacteriology and Pathology	32, 114	Home Nursing	94	
Births	10, 11, 13, 82	Hospitals Management Committee	93	
Canal Boats	25	Houses Let-in-Lodgings.....	20	
Cancer	10, 15, 16	Housing.....	18	
Care and After-Care.....	101	Ice-Cream	32	
Care of Mother and Child	78	Illegitimate Children	10, 88	
Care of the Aged	101	Immunisation against Diphtheria.....	95	
Causes of Deaths	14, 15	Infant Feeding	87	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	61	Infant Life Protection	89	
Child Welfare Centres.....	6, 84	Infantile Mortality	10, 83	
Common Lodging Houses	24	Infectious Diseases	5, 53	
Consultants	79	Insanitary Dwellings	23	
Convalescent Treatment.....	101	Laboratory Services.....	32, 114	
Cost of Public Health Department	10	Loan of Equipment.....	101	
Cowsheds	35	Lunacy and Mental Treatment.....	106	
Daily Guardians	89	Maintenance Allowance,		
Dairies	35	Tuberculosis	66	
Day Nurseries	6, 78, 90	Marriages	11	
Deaths	10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 57	Maternal Mortality.....	5, 81	
Dental Treatment	63, 86	Maternity and Child Welfare		
Diarrhoea Neo-Natal	10	Centres	6, 84	
Diphtheria	5, 59	Measles	10, 60	
Diphtheria Immunisation	95	Meat Inspection.....	38	
District Nursing Association	92, 94	Mental Health.....	101, 105	
Domestic Helps.....	104	Midwives	92	
Drains, Testing of.....	20	Milk	36	
Dysentery	61	Mother and Child Care.....	88	
Erysipelas	61	National Health Service Act.....	5, 6, 77	
Factories Act.....	26	Ambulance Service.....	99	
Feeding of Infants.....	87	Care of Mother and Young		
Feeding Stuffs.....	51	Children	78	
Fertilizers	51	Health Visiting.....	94	
Fish Inspection.....	40	Home Nursing	94	
Food and Drugs Act.....	41	Prevention of Illness, Care		
Food Inspection.....	40, 41	and After-Care	101	
Food Supply.....	31	Provision of Domestic Helps	104	
Gastro-Enteritis	60	Mental Health Service.....	101	
Guardians, Daily.....	89	Midwifery Service.....	92	
Health Committee	3	Vaccination and		
		Immunisation	95	
		Neo-Natal Deaths	83	

CONTENTS—(Continued).

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Neo-Natal Diarrhoea	10	Sanatoria	64, 69
Nurseries, Day... ..	6, 78, 90	Scarlet Fever	59
Nursing in the Home	94	Slaughterhouses	39
Occupation Centre.	111	Smallpox	61
Offensive Trades	23	Smoke Abatement	25
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	60, 84	Social Conditions	9
Park Lee Hospital	55, 58, 74	Staff	7, 61
Pathologist	32, 114	Stillbirths	10, 82
Pathology and Bacteriology.....	32, 114	Tents, Sheds, Caravans	23
Poliomyelitis	60	Tuberculosis	63, 65, 102
Population	10	Tuberculosis Dispensary.....	66, 71
Post-Natal Care.	80	Tuberculosis in Animals	
Premature Births	83	Slaughtered	38
Preservatives in Food	48	Tuberculous Milk.....	37
Prevention of Illness	101, 103	Ultra-Violet Light Clinic.....	81
Provision of Meals	102	Vaccination	95
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	60, 81	Venereal Diseases.....	73
Regional Hospital Board	66	Vermineous Premises and Persons	24
Relaxation Classes	80	Vital Statistics.....	5, 9
Rodent Control	28	Ward Statistics.....	13
Royal Infirmary.....	16, 74, 93	Water Supply	18
Sanitary Circumstances.	17	Whooping Cough.....	10, 60
Sanitary work, details of.....	21		

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLACKBURN.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

School Health Service

For the Year 1948.

Members of the Education Committee

1948-49

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„ D. B. Worden.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
VICTORIA STREET,
BLACKBURN.

May, 1949.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twenty-second Annual Report, the 43rd of the Series, on the work of the School Health Service during 1948.

The year under review witnessed the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, and the preliminary effects of that Act upon the School Health Service as it has been.

Sections of the School Health Service already affected by the Act are discussed under the appropriate headings in the body of this Report.

In March the Speech Clinic was closed owing to Miss Drummond's retirement, and I would like to express my appreciation of the extremely capable and conscientious manner in which she dealt with speech defects. Efforts to replace her have proved unsuccessful so far, for which reason this important branch of the Service has lapsed.

The Orthoptic Section of the department is still closed.

In 1938, when the Blackburn and Burnley Education Authorities first made a joint orthoptic appointment, there were very few other authorities in the country which provided this form of treatment. Since then there has been an increasing demand for, but decreased supply of, orthoptists. As a result the prospects of this clinic being reopened in the near future appear remote.

The loyal and conscientious work of the Medical, Dental, Nursing, Medical Auxiliary and Clerical staffs is once more worthy both of mention and of the highest praise.

It is again my privilege to express my thanks to the members of the Education Committee for the sympathetic consideration and encouragement which they have invariably accorded me.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

V. T. THIERENS,
School Medical Officer.

School Clinics.

NAME	PURPOSE	WHERE HELD	TIMES
Inspection Clinic	Special Examination of Cases Referred by Teachers, School Attendance Officers and School Nurses.	68, Victoria Street	Wednesdays, 2 p.m.; Saturdays, 9-30 a.m.
Ophthalmic Clinic	Prescription of Spectacles	68, Victoria Street	Mondays, 2-15 p.m. Fridays, 2-15 p.m.
Dental Clinic	Dental Treatment	,,	Every week-day by appointment.
Minor Ailments Clinic	Treatment of Minor Diseases of Skin, etc.	68, Victoria Street	Every week-day at 8-45 a.m.
Cleansing Station	Treatment of Scabies and Cleansing of Verminous Cases	Blakey Moor	By appointment
Throat Clinic	Operative Treatment of Ade- noids and Enlarged Tonsils.	Blackburn & East Lancs.R.Infirmery	Arranged as required
,,	,,	Queen's Park Hospital	Arranged as required
Remedial Exercises	Treatment of Deformities.	66, Victoria Street	Every week-day (by appointment)
Diphtheria Im- munisation Clinic	Prevention of Diphtheria	68, Victoria Street	Mondays, 3-45 p.m.
Ultra-Violet Light Clinic	Artificial Light Treatment	68, Victoria Street	Every week-day (by appointment)
Consultant Aural Clinic	Treatment of Deafness, etc.	68, Victoria Street	As required.
Orthoptic Clinic	Correction of Strabismus	68, Victoria Street	By appointment
Heart, Rheuma- tism and An- aemia Clinic	Diagnosis and supervision of Cases suffering from Rheuma- tism and Heart defects, and investigation of Anaemia	68, Victoria Street	By appointment.

Section 1

CO-ORDINATION.

The School Medical Officer is also the Medical Officer of Health. The Assistant School Medical Officer is also Assistant Medical Officer of Health and the lady Assistant Medical Officer devotes a proportion of her time to duties in connection with the School Health Service. The Resident Medical Officer of the Corporation Hospital regularly conducts routine medical inspections. The whole of the medical staff are consequently familiar with the work of the School Health Service, their work in connection with which brings about close co-ordination between the School Health Service and the various branches of the Health Department.

The record cards of children who have attended the Child Welfare Centres are transferred to the School Health records upon the children commencing attendance at a Primary School or Nursery Class.

SCHOOL HYGIENE

The Assistant School Medical Officer, on the occasion of each visit to a school, inspects the hygienic conditions of the school and, where defects are discovered, they are notified to the Director of Education in order that they may be remedied.

STRUCTURAL WORK AND DECORATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

I have to thank the Borough Engineer for the following details of the work carried out during the year :—

The undermentioned Schools were decorated internally during 1948 :—

Audley C.

Blakey Moor Boys.

Academic High School (Preston New Road and Crosshill).

St. Andrew's.

St. Bartholomew's.

St. Gabriel's.

St. Joseph's (Girls).

Mosley Street Co-op Rooms (Part) for use of St. Mary's.

Lighting improvements were effected at the Technical High School and Academic High School (Preston New Road), whilst renovations to playgrounds were made at Cedar Street and Four Lanes End Schools.

COST OF SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

for the year 1947-48

I am indebted to the Borough Treasurer, Mr. J. Bennett, for the following particulars :—

PAYMENTS	£	s.	d.
Salaries and Fees.....	7982	2	9
Operative treatment of Tonsils and Adenoids	769	1	0
Printing, Stationery and Postage	141	1	10
Drugs, Materials and Apparatus.....	828	0	3
Repair and Upkeep of Premises	773	9	9
Rents, Rates and Taxes	179	5	4
Fuel, Light and Cleaning	106	4	4
Cleansing of Pupils	78	15	0
Travelling Expenses	77	9	10
National Insurance	42	1	4
Orange Juice and Jelly, Malt & Oil, Tonics, &c.	200	4	11
Incidentals	27	18	0
	11205	14	4
RECEIPTS			
Services of Staff to Health Department, Rents, Sales, &c.	129	17	4
	129	17	4
Net Cost	11075	17	0

The rateable value of the Borough in 1947-48 was £740,246.

The gross cost of medical inspection and treatment in both elementary and secondary schools for the twelve months ended March 31st, 1948, was £11,076, compared with the figure £9,615 in the year 1946-47.

The Government Grant was 56.0677% of the nett expenditure, leaving a nett charge on the rates of £4,866.

The cost of the School Health Service for the year 1947-48 per child on the school rolls was 16s. 4d. gross and 7s. 2d. nett, and the cost expressed in terms of a penny rate was 3.68d. gross and 1.62d. nett.

SCHOOL POPULATION

There are 44 Primary and 11 Secondary Schools maintained by the Education Committee in addition to 3 Direct Grant or Independent Schools in the town. There are also 3 Special Schools.

Particulars of attendances at the maintained schools are as follows :—

	No. on Rolls
Primary Schools.....	9406
Secondary Schools.....	6046
Special Schools.....	190
	<hr/>
Total	15642
	<hr/>

Section 2.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Routine medical inspections are carried out in the schools by the Assistant School Medical Officers.

A nurse accompanies the doctor to the inspections and prepares the children for examination. In addition, she weighs and measures the children and tests their vision.

In many schools a room is set apart for the medical inspection and in the case of some of the other schools, arrangements have been made for the use of adjacent Assembly Halls or Club Rooms.

All pupils attending Primary Schools are offered a full medical inspection on first admission and again during the last year of attendance. Secondary School pupils are offered the inspection during the last year of their attendance.

The routine inspections comprise a thorough investigation of all systems and a careful enquiry into previous medical history. On the occasion of each visit for routine inspection all cases (whether in the Group Examination or not) previously referred for treatment and for observation are seen by the Medical Inspector. Teachers are also invited to produce any child suspected to be suffering from physical or mental defect.

FINDINGS OF SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

The following Tables give full details of the findings at all routine medical inspections carried out during 1948 and comparisons are made with previous years.

NUMBER OF ROUTINE INSPECTIONS, 1943 to 1948*Table 1*

Code Group	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943
Entrants	1458	1727	1599	894	1500	1104
Intermediates	1097	1023	1065	—	—	—
Leavers.....	399	702	507	915	912	940
Total.....	2954	3452	3171	1809	2412	2044

ATTENDANCES OF PARENTS AT ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Table 2

	No. Ex'd.	Parents Present	Percent Parents Attend- ances.	Boys	Girls
Entrants	1458	1226	84.1	733	725
Intermediates	1097	454	41.4	551	546
Leavers	399	15	3.7	144	255
Total	2954	1695	57.4	1428	1526

Table 3

UNCLEANLINESS

Groups	Condition of head					Condition of Body				1947 %age clean	
	Clean	Dirty	Nits	Pedi- culi	%age clean	Clean	Dirty	Flea- bitten	%age clean	Head	Body
Entrants :—											
Boys	716	—	17	—	97.6	731	2	—	99.7	96.9	99.4
Girls	652	—	72	1	89.9	723	2	—	99.7	86.1	99.3
Intermediates :—											
Boys	547	—	4	—	99.3	549	2	—	99.6	98.3	97.9
Girls	427	—	119	—	78.2	544	2	—	99.6	84.3	99.5
Leavers :—											
Boys	141	2	1	—	97.9	144	—	—	100.	100.	99.3
Girls	231	—	24	—	90.6	253	2	—	99.2	87.1	98.8
Totals :—											
Boys	1404	2	22	—	98.2	1424	4	—	99.7	97.8	98.9
Girls	1310	—	215	1	85.8	1520	6	—	99.6	85.8	99.2
Combined Total	2714	2	237	1	91.9	2944	10	—	99.6	91.7	99.1

Table 4

	Percentage of Clean Heads		Percentage of Clean Bodies	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1910-1914 inc.	54—			
1920-1923 inc.	93.2		98.1	
1924	98.4	74.1	95.9	92.2
1925	96.9	78.3	96.0	91.5
1926	93.5	64.4	93.6	95.5
1927	96.2	80.0	94.3	94.0
1928	97.6	77.1	96.7	96.8
1929	97.7	76.0	96.6	96.5
1930	98.6	78.4	97.7	97.6
1931	97.0	74.1	97.5	97.6
1932	98.0	79.3	96.0	96.7
1933	93.6	71.9	96.2	97.4
1934	96.7	74.0	98.3	98.6
1935	95.2	72.3	98.3	98.3
1936	97.0	79.8	99.4	99.2
1937	97.3	74.1	98.4	98.9
1938	98.6	78.5	99.0	98.7
1939	93.7	83.5	99.1	99.4
1940	99.2	84.3	99.3	99.1
1941	99.2	80.0	99.6	99.9
1942	99.0	81.7	99.5	98.9
1943	99.6	84.5	99.8	99.0
1944	99.2	83.1	99.6	99.2
1945	99.2	86.1	99.1	99.4
1946	98.5	86.3	98.0	99.3
1947	97.8	85.8	98.9	99.2
1948	98.2	85.8	99.7	99.6

NUTRITION

Table 5 gives particulars of the nutritional findings at routine medical inspections of the Code Age Groups during 1948.

Table 5

	Good				Fair				Poor				Total	
	A				B				C					
	B		G		B		G		B		G		B	G
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.
Entrants ...	339	46.3	353	48.7	377	51.4	361	49.8	17	2.3	11	1.5	733	725
Intermediates	269	48.8	302	55.3	275	50.0	240	44.0	7	1.2	4	0.7	551	546
Leavers	67	46.5	106	41.6	75	52.1	142	55.6	2	1.4	7	2.8	144	255
Total ...	675	47.3	761	50.0	727	50.9	743	48.6	26	1.8	22	1.4	1428	1526

Table 6.

Summary of Defects found at Routine Medical Inspection.

CONDITION	ENTRANTS				INTERMEDIATES				LEAVERS				ALL GROUPS			
	M		F		M		F		M		F		M		F	
	Defects		Defects		Defects		Defects		Defects		Defects		Defects		Defects	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Clothing	—	—	—	—	24	4.4	21	3.8	7	4.8	16	6.3	31	2.2	37	2.
Footgear	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2.1	—	—	3	.21	—	—
General Condition	394	53.7	372	51.3	282	51.2	244	44.7	77	53.5	149	54.5	753	52.7	765	50.
CLEANLINESS :																
Head : Dirty	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1.4	—	—	2	.14	—	—
Nits	17	2.3	72	10.0	4	.72	119	21.8	1	.7	24	9.4	22	1.5	215	14.
Pediculi	—	—	1	.14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.00
Body : Dirty	2	.27	2	.28	2	.36	2	.36	—	—	2	.78	4	.28	6	.39
Flea-Bitten	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ringworm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.39	—	—	1	.00
Scabies	1	.13	3	.4	2	.36	—	—	1	.7	1	.39	4	.28	4	.20
Impetigo	—	—	—	—	1	.18	1	.18	—	—	—	—	1	.7	1	.00
Other Skin	21	2.9	20	2.8	13	2.4	11	2.0	9	6.2	11	4.3	43	3.0	42	2.
NOSE AND THROAT :																
Enlarged Tonsils.....	164	22.4	157	21.6	84	15.2	98	18.0	32	22.2	37	14.5	280	19.5	292	19.0
Adenoids	10	1.4	9	1.2	4	.72	6	1.1	—	—	2	.78	14	.98	17	1.1
Enlarged T. and A.	7	.95	2	.28	5	.90	8	1.5	—	—	—	—	12	.84	10	.63
Other	4	.54	4	.55	6	1.1	2	.36	—	—	—	—	10	.7	6	.39
En.Glands(non T.B.) ..	146	20.0	121	16.7	113	20.5	102	18.7	25	17.3	38	15.0	284	19.9	261	17.1
EYE DISEASE :																
Squint	34	4.6	30	4.0	8	1.5	5	.91	1	.7	1	.39	43	3.0	36	2.3
Blepharitis	1	.13	2	.28	7	1.3	9	1.6	—	—	2	.78	8	.56	13	.85
Conjunctivitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Corneal Opacities ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Ext. Eyes ...	3	.4	5	.69	1	.18	2	.36	—	—	1	.39	4	.28	8	.52
Defective Vision ...	—	—	—	—	39	7.1	54	9.9	6	4.1	26	10.2	45	3.1	80	5.2
EAR AND HEARING :																
Otitis Media	17	2.3	18	2.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	1.2	18	1.2
Hearing	6	.81	4	.55	—	—	2	.36	—	—	2	.78	6	.42	8	.52
Other	6	.81	7	.96	3	.54	4	.73	—	—	5	2.3	9	.63	16	1.0
SPEECH :																
Stammer	1	.13	3	.4	1	.18	1	.18	—	—	1	.39	2	.14	5	.32
Lisp	2	.27	3	.4	—	—	1	.18	—	—	2	.78	2	.14	6	.39
Other	13	1.8	5	.69	3	.36	1	.18	—	—	—	—	15	1.0	6	.39
PSYCHOLOGICAL :																
Development	3	.40	—	—	5	.90	2	.36	1	.7	2	.78	9	.63	4	.26
Stability	6	.81	8	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	.42	8	.52
TUBERCULOSIS :																
Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.7	—	—	1	.07	—	—
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	1	.18	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.07	—	—

Summary of Defects found at Routine Medical Inspection—*Cont.*

CONDITION	ENTRANTS				INTERMEDIATES				LEAVERS				ALL GROUPS			
	M		F		M		F		M		F		M		F	
	Defect:		Defects		Defects		Defects		Defects		Defects		Defects		Defects	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
SKETS :																
ight	29	3.9	25	3.4	14	2.5	11	2.0	—	—	8	3.2	43	3.0	44	2.9
arked	1	.13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.07	—	—
HOPAEDICS :																
spinal Curvature ...	—	—	3	.40	1	.18	1	.18	—	—	1	.39	1	.07	5	.32
osture.....	10	1.4	6	.82	23	4.2	16	2.9	5	3.4	9	3.5	38	2.6	31	2.0
lat Foot	12	1.6	7	.96	2	.36	2	.36	5	3.4	11	4.3	19	1.3	20	1.3
ther	40	5.4	22	3.0	34	6.2	27	4.9	4	2.8	18	7.1	78	5.4	67	4.4
VELOPMENTAL :																
ernia	5	.68	2	.28	—	—	1	.18	—	—	1	.39	5	.35	4	.26
ndesc. Test.	5	.68	—	—	5	.90	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	.7	—	—
ther	3	.40	3	.40	—	—	1	.18	—	—	—	—	3	.21	4	.26
PART :																
rganic	1	.13	4	.55	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.39	1	.07	5	.32
unctional	19	2.6	13	1.8	7	1.3	14	2.6	3	2.1	10	3.9	29	2.0	37	2.4
anaemia	7	.95	2	.28	17	3.1	19	3.5	—	—	12	4.7	24	1.6	33	2.1
NGS :																
Bronchitis	51	6.9	47	6.5	1	.18	7	1.3	—	—	1	.39	52	3.6	55	3.6
Other	21	2.9	19	2.6	15	2.7	12	2.2	2	1.4	9	3.5	38	2.6	40	2.6
ROVUS :																
Epilepsy	—	—	1	.14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.06
Chorea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	10	1.4	12	1.6	12	2.2	8	1.5	—	—	4	1.6	22	1.5	24	1.6
HER DEFECTS	9	1.2	17	2.3	16	2.9	10	1.8	3	2.1	2	.78	28	1.9	29	1.9
Total children examined	733		725		551		546		144		255		1428		1526	
	1458				1097				399				2954			

Section 3.

TREATMENT.

As forecast in my Report for 1947 the establishment of the National Health Service has caused modifications in the form of treatment undertaken by the School Health Service.

In Circular 179 of 4th August, 1948, issued by the Ministry of Education, it is stated :

“ The establishment of the National Health Service will cause financial and structural changes in the School Health Service and the Special School system.”

The Minister outlines the immediate changes and indicates the principles underlying the co-ordination of these services whilst the National Health Service is developing, and continues :

“ These and other questions of policy or detail may call for further review in the light of experience.”

Changes effected by the introduction of this and subsequent Circulars are discussed under the appropriate sub-sections.

Specialist Services. Under Section 3 (i) (c) of the National Health Service Act, Regional Hospital Boards will determine what specialist services are to be available, but the Minister of Education has stated :

“ Where the service which they (i.e. the Boards) provide is for the benefit of school children towards whom Local Education Authorities have special responsibilities they will plan the future organisation and development of the work as far as possible in consultation and agreement with Authorities.”

You have previously employed certain Consultants on a part-time basis. These Consultants have continued to attend the clinics but, since July, the clinics have been accepted by the Board as part of the local Consultant Services, and the payment of fees to the Consultants has become the responsibility of the Board.

The Clinics affected are those conducted by Dr. A. L. McAdam (*Heart*), and Mr. J. M. Wishart (*Ear, Nose and Throat*).

The procedure adopted in regard to the Ophthalmic and Tonsil Clinics is somewhat different and is discussed below.

Clinics. All the School Clinics are housed in the Health Department Victoria Street.

Inspection Clinics. The Inspection Clinic at which the Assistant School Medical Officer examines children referred for special examination by parents, teachers, school nurses, school welfare officers, or from school medical inspection, is held on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

During the year 789 children paid 995 visits to the 101 Inspection Clinics which were held.

Minor Ailments. In Circular 179 of 1948, the Minister of Education states that Minor Ailments Clinics are well established as the most expeditious and comprehensive means of dealing with many troublesome conditions and of preventing further impairment of health.

The Circular continues :

“ The School Health Service has the advantage of using the service of the school nurse working under the supervision of the School doctor for dealing with such conditions, and continuity of treatment is ensured through close association with the schools.”

“ Although no change in this system is contemplated, in course of time opportunities may be found to embody these clinics in health centres and centres for group practice work, forming part of the National Health Service.”

Treatment of minor ailments is given every morning at the School Clinic, where the Assistant School Medical Officer is in attendance in addition to two school nurses.

The appended table gives a classification of defects treated during the year, together with comparison with 1947.

Table 7.—MINOR AILMENTS

1948.

1947.

Comparison
with 1947.

Complaint	Cases	Attendants	Average number of attendances per case	Cases	Attendants	Average number of attendances per case	Attendance inc. or dec.	Cases inc. or dec.
Ringworm—Scalp	1	1	1	—	—	—	+ 1	+ 1
Body	18	52	2.9	8	52	6.5	—	+ 10
Scabies.....	89	259	2.8	96	289	3.0	— 30	— 7
Impetigo	88	764	8.6	77	770	10.0	— 6	+ 11
Other Skin Diseases	79	435	5.5	55	329	6.0	+ 106	+ 24
Minor Injuries	292	1352	4.6	268	1452	5.4	— 100	+ 24
Verminous Head	83	234	2.8	138	559	4.0	— 325	— 55
Otorrhoea	29	395	13.6	23	558	24.0	— 163	+ 6
Other ear defect or disease	71	445	6.2	38	294	7.7	+ 151	+ 33
Blepharitis	16	58	3.6	18	176	9.7	— 118	— 2
Conjunctivitis.....	16	82	5.1	13	71	5.5	+ 11	+ 3
Other Ext'l Eye disease...	29	71	2.4	6	13	2.1	+ 58	+ 23
Miscellaneous	861	3053	3.5	670	2841	4.2	+ 212	+ 191
Totals	1672	7201	4.3	1410	7404	5.2	— 203	+ 262

Visual Defects. At the moment provision of spectacles is undertaken free of charge by the Supplementary Ophthalmic Service of the National Health Service Act. Repairs and replacements, if caused by lack of care, will be charged for, and any such charges will be borne by the Education Committee in accordance with the terms of Section 48 of the Education Act.

The Authority's oculist still conducts refraction clinics at the Victoria Street premises, and is paid by the Education Committee, who are re-imbursed by the Local Executive Council at the rate of 12/6 per refraction.

These arrangements are only temporary and, in Circular 303/48, the Minister explains what will be the permanent arrangements so far as the Ophthalmic Service is concerned.

These clinics will at some future date be taken over by Regional Hospital Boards on a sessional basis under the general provision relating to specialist work :

" The School Health Service will therefore cease to use the Supplementary Ophthalmic Service for refraction and for the supply of glasses and replacements or repair from the date when the sessional arrangements in question are transferred to the Regional Board."

During 1948, 87 sessions were held at which Mr. Wishart examined 824 children of whom 634 were in need of spectacles and for whom spectacles were prescribed.

Of the children examined, 418 were new cases referred for a first examination during the year and of whom 336 were in need of spectacles and for whom spectacles were prescribed.

Table 8.

Defect	Cases		Percentage of Cases	
	Examined for first time	Examined re change of glasses	Examined for first time	Examined re change of glasses
EXAMINED FOR REFRACTIVE ERRORS :				
Emmetropia (Normal Vision) ...	53	12	12.7	2.9
Simple Hypermetropia	140	103	33.5	25.4
Hypermetropic Astigmatism	105	161	25.1	39.7
Mixed Astigmatism	46	40	11.0	9.9
Myopia	48	59	11.5	14.5
Myopic Astigmatism	26	31	6.2	7.6
Totals.....	418	406	—	—
EYE DISEASES (IN ADDITION TO REFRACTIVE ERRORS) :				
Blepharitis	—	—	—	—
Nebulae (Corneal)	1	5	1.5	3.9
Cataract (Congenital)	2	3	3.0	2.4
Other Eye Diseases	2	10	3.0	7.9
Phlyctenular Conjunctivitis	—	—	—	—
Strabismus	55	92	82.1	73.1
Over 5 Dioptres	7	16	10.4	12.7
Totals.....	485	532	—	—

The Orthoptic Clinic is still closed, but Mr. Wishart has, in certain cases of Squint, recommended the wearing of a patchover the "good" eye to encourage the normal functioning of the "squinting" eye.

Selected pupils with seriously defective vision are admitted to the Special Class for Partially Sighted children in the Corporation Park, whilst blind children are admitted to Residential Special Schools.

Details of those children are given in Section 7.

Ultra Violet Light Treatment. A total of 185 school children underwent ultra-violet light treatment and received a total of 1,403 exposures.

Heart, Rheumatism and Anaemia Clinic. The Consultant Cardiologist has continued to attend once per month to examine children referred by the Assistant School Medical Officer. Since July, however, the Cardiologist has been reimbursed by the Regional Hospital Board, as part of the latter's Specialist Services.

During the year, attendances at the Clinic proved extremely satisfactory there being a total number of 326 attendances.

In all, 61 cases were referred for examination by the Cardiologist, of which 28 proved to be either suffering from no cardiac defect, or were purely functional in origin.

All the cases with organic or congenital cardiac defects are re-examined periodically. The possibility at some subsequent date of submitting certain congenital cases to operation is under constant consideration.

As described in the report for 1946, the services of the X-ray Department at the Blackburn Royal Infirmary are available for X-ray and Electrocardiographic examinations.

This year, haemoglobin estimations have been performed at the Clinic instead of the Infirmary, as has been the case in previous years.

This has effected a considerable amount of time saved both on the part of the patient and the Assistant Medical Officer. Where previously the results of these specimens were not known for 48 hours, the specimens are now taken and read and treatment recommended at one and the same session.

Sixteen cases shown to be suffering from Anaemia were placed on a course of Fersolate Tablets and attended the Clinic at subsequent dates for further tests, until an improvement was effected.

The subjoined table shows an analysis of all the cases seen during the year, at both the Clinics conducted by the Assistant School Medical Officer and those attended by the Cardiologist.

Table 9. ATTENDANCES AT CARDIOLOGICAL CLINIC.

Diagnosis	1st Exam	Re-Exam	Exercises		D'ch'g'd or left School	Still on Register	Referred for		
			Fit	Unfit			Hb	ECG	X-Ray BSR
Rheumatism	5	2	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
? Rheumatism	2	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Anaemia	24	11	24	—	21	3	17	—	1
? Anaemia	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Functional Murmur	36	18	33	3	33	3	—	—	1
N.A.D.	8	1	8	—	8	—	—	—	—
Cases referred to Cardiologist	76 61	35	72	4	69	7	18	—	2
Results of Examinations by Cardiologist :	1st Exam								
Mitral Stenosis	6	26	4	2	—	6	—	6	7
Pulmonary Stenosis	5	14	4	1	2	3	—	6	5
Mitral Stenosis with Aortic Incompetence	2	6	1	1	—	2	—	3	2
Sinusitis	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Patent Ductus Arteriosus	2	2	—	2	—	2	—	2	2
Congenital Heart Block	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	1
? Lutenbacher Syndrome	1	4	—	1	—	1	—	1	1
Tetralogy of Fallot	1	4	—	1	—	1	—	1	1
Myocarditis	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Patent Inter-Ventricular Septum	4	15	4	—	—	4	—	3	3
Patent Inter-Auricular Septum	5	18	2	3	1	4	—	4	4
Physiological Third Sound	2	5	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Functional Murmur	16	33	16	—	16	—	—	—	—
Anaemia	1	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Normal Hearts	12	17	12	—	12	—	—	—	—
Totals	61	137 189	121	16	105	32	18	28	26 2

Hb : Haemoglobin Estimation. ECG : Electrocardiograph. BSR : Blood Sedimentation Rate.

Tonsils and Adenoids. The procedure adopted with regard to the waiting-list of children for tonsils and adenoids operations has been changed since 5th July.

Previously a waiting-list was kept at the Public Health Office of children examined, and recommended for operation. The cases were operated upon by Mr. J. M. Wishart, part-time Specialist to the Department, as and when beds became available, the children being medically examined at the School Clinic immediately prior to operation.

For the past few years very few beds have been available for Blackburn children at the Royal Infirmary, but the Education Committee has had the almost exclusive use of Queen's Park Hospital for the purpose, whenever the bed state permitted admissions.

In September, the waiting-list was transferred to Queen's Park Hospital where the medical staff became responsible for summoning the children for operation and for their examination the day before the operation. As new cases are discovered their names are notified to the Hospital for addition to the waiting-list.

Where previously, I was able to send up to twelve children for operation at a time, I now have no control of admissions.

As a result each operative session performed does not necessarily consist wholly of Blackburn children, but includes children from extra-Borough areas covered by the Hospital Management Committee.

I have made repeated efforts to obtain additional beds to reduce the swollen waiting-list and hoped that certain of the beds at the Isolation Hospital staffed from the Royal Infirmary might wipe off arrears. Unfortunately the proposal fell through due to a combination of difficulties.

The position is still unsatisfactory despite the co-operation of the surgeon, hospital and Authority. It should, however, improve as a result of the recent appointment of a Registrar to the Ear, Nose and Throat Unit.

During the year 138 operations were performed at 16 sessions. Fifteen of these sessions were held at Queen's Park. Of the 138 operations, 117 were performed prior to September. Operations between September and November were held up through lack of beds, and 334 children remained on the waiting-list at the end of the year.

The Department is notified of each child operated upon. The child is then followed up after discharge, and attends the Inspection Clinic ten days later qua fitness to return to School.

Child Guidance Clinic. The Minister has stated :

“ Child Guidance work is in the main an educational service closely linked with the school and home. Thus the needs of most of the children who are maladjusted can be met by social and educational adjustments.”

He considers that those children found to need psychiatric treatment,

“ should normally be referred to clinics which will be provided by the Regional Hospital Boards and which in some cases are already available ; similarly, these clinics will refer appropriate cases to the Child Guidance Clinic.”

Educational, physical and psychiatric aspects of the work are inseparable and at Child Guidance Clinics established by Authorities the team of workers includes a psychiatrist, an educational psychologist and a social worker ; close co-operation with parents and teachers is essential.

This set-up obtains at the Blackburn Clinic of the Lancashire County Council, whose facilities the Blackburn Education Committee has continued to use.

During 1948, 54 new cases were referred to the Clinic, including 3 sent from the Juvenile Court.

It will be seen from the following table that of the 73 children who attended the Clinic during the year, twenty-three are shown as “ Improved ” on discharge, seventeen attended for diagnosis only whilst fifteen cases were still on the register at the end of the year. During 1948, thirteen cases (or 18%) had to be discontinued owing to lack of co-operation on the part of the parents or guardians.

Table 10.

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC REPORT, 1948.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES :	REFERRED BY					INTELLIGENCE					RESULT					Total Atten- dances
	Re-exams carried over from 1947	S.M.O.	Juvenile Magistrates Police Remand Home	Education Dept.	Others	High (115+)	Average (85-115)	Low (-85)	Failed to attend for appointment	Diagnostic	Improved	Not Improved	Parents Unco-operative	Others: for follow-up, Advice, etc.	Still Attending	
New : 54																
Re-exams : 19																
<hr/> 73																
Boys	38	12	20	2	4	10	12	6	10	9	15	1	6	7	—	217
Girls	35	7	23	1	4	6	12	9	8	8	8	4	7	6	2	113
TOTAL	73	19	43	3	8	16	24	15	18	17	23	5	13	13	2	330

Orthopaedic Treatment and Physiotherapy. During the year, this section of the School Health Service, re-opened in 1947 after two years' suspension, was augmented by the addition of new and up-to-date apparatus.

Racing-Bicycles, a Rowing Machine, combined Infra-Red and Radiant Heat apparatus, were installed and the existing beam enlarged. These improvements have considerably extended the scope of the Clinic.

The Physiotherapist continues to attend the Royal Infirmary once a month, on the occasion of a special clinic at which the Orthopaedic Surgeon examines children referred from the School Medical Department.

During the year, 27 children suffering from Orthopaedic defects received in-patient treatment at either the Royal Infirmary or Queen's Park Hospital.

The following table gives details of the work carried out at the Clinic :

Table 11.

ATTENDANCES AT ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

	REMEDIAL EXERCISES				ELECTRICAL TREATMENT			
	School		Pre-School		School		Pre-School	
	Cases	Attendances	Cases	Attendances	Cases	Attendances	Cases	Attendances
Breathing Exercises	15	116	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slight Postural Defects	33	269	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spinal Curvature	5	77	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Paralysis	—	—	1	11	—	—	1	11
Birth Injuries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Dislocations	8	129	5	70	1	34	3	17
Pes Cavus and Planus	62	524	10	69	—	—	1	28
Rickets	40	331	11	146	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
N.A.D.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Joints	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Talipes	3	38	1	28	—	—	1	28
Result of Accident	3	9	—	—	1	5	—	—
Totals	169	1493	28	324	2	39	6	84

Cleansing Centre. As, for practical purposes, there has been no decline in the incidence of head infestations found by the School Nurses over the past 25 years, a scheme for the systematic treatment of these conditions was adopted by the Committee in the early months of the year.

A schoolroom at All Saints, Bolton Road, was adapted for use as a Cleansing Centre, and a full time attendant appointed. The Centre was later transferred to Throstle Street and, in certain instances, the actual treatment is carried out by the attendant at the schools.

The procedure adopted is as follows :

As hitherto, a nurse visits the schools, and reports cases of infestation to the head teacher. Letters are then sent to the parents of all children who are infested and who, it is considered, should receive special treatment.

Infestations are classified into two groups :

- (1) Mild cases which receive one treatment.
- (2) Chronic or heavily infested cases which receive three treatments at monthly intervals.

Appointments are sent to the teacher, who arranges for the children to have their hair washed the night before treatment. Those children detailed for attendance at the Cleansing Centre are then treated in school groups of a dozen or so, and sent back to school together.

Nurses follow up and insist on nit-combing in the usual way.

The scheme was first of all applied to Senior girls and girls in the Junior Schools but was later extended to cover Infants Departments. The attendant carries out the actual treatment of infants in school instead of at the Centre.

At the inception of the scheme parental opposition and objection were anticipated. This anticipation was fully realised.

After a few months, however, the treatment was accepted as "routine," and but few letters of indignation are now received.

My thanks are due to the wholehearted co-operation of the teachers in this new venture, in particular to those who have granted facilities, often under great difficulty, for the attendant to carry out the treatment in school.

By the end of the year, the clinic was functioning smoothly, and a total of 1,793 treatments had been given.

It is too early to give an opinion as to the effect of the clinic on the standard of cleanliness, and, for that reason, the figures set out in the following table are not significant. None the less the problem has proved a difficult one which should be tackled vigorously if substantial improvement is to be obtained.

The figures for 1948 quoted in the table include the total number of girls inspected prior to treatment (January to May) and the number of inspections made after the clinic was in full operation.

Table. 12

CLEANLINESS INSPECTIONS.

GIRLS.

Period	No. Examined	% Clean	% with Pediculi	% with heavy	% with slight
				Nit infestation	
1947 January to December.	17522	65.1	0.5	5.1	29.3
1948 January to May.	14106	67.64	0.13	6.33	25.9
1948 June to December	12706	68.0	0.10	6.12	25.78

Section 4

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

The establishment of the National Health Service will not affect the work of the Dental Department.

The duty to secure a comprehensive dental service for school children will continue to rest on Local Education Authorities under Section 48 of the Education Act, 1944, and "the maintenance and extension of the School Dental Service will be essential for this purpose."

Work of the School Dental Department. During the year 174 school children received orthodontic treatment. Most of the cases were treated by means of judicious extractions, but in 43 cases it was necessary to supply and use appliances for correction. This important branch of dentistry could profitably be extended, but would take up more time than the present staff could possibly give without detriment to the existing services.

The appended table sets out the work done in the department during the years 1947 and 1948.

						1947	1948
Permanent Teeth Filled	...	...	...	...	...	2958	2846
Temporary Teeth Filled	...	...	...	...	...	72	135
Root Treatments	...	...	...	...	...	58	75
Extractions	...	...	...	...	...	7897	8088
Other Operations	...	...	...	...	...	1168	1179
						12153	12323
General Anaesthetics	...	...	...	...	...	862	872
Percentage who refused treatment	...	...	...	...	...	9.3%	8.3%
Percentage with Dental Caries	...	...	...	...	...	48.3%	49.6%
Percentage of Appointments kept	...	...	...	...	...	91.1%	90.1%

Table 13

DENTAL TREATMENT

	Number of Half-days Devoted to Inspection	Number of Half-days Devoted to Treatment.	Total Number of Attendances made by Children at the Clinic	No. of Perma't Teeth		No. of Temp'ary Teeth		Total No. of Teeth		No. of Administrations of General Anaesthetics	No. of Administrations of Local Anaesthetics	No. of other Operations				Root Treatments	X-Ray
				Extracted	Filled	Extracted	Filled	Extractions	Fillings			Perm. Dress	Perm. Scale	Temp. Dress	Temp. Scale		
Routine	128	1176	6746	844	2795	5658	122	6502	2917	872	2005	567	280	12	—	75	86
Specials	—	—	1423	142	51	1444	13	1586	64	—	1017	226	7	12	—	—	—
Total	128	1176	8169	986	2846	7102	135	8088	2981	872	3022	793	287	24	—	75	86

Appointments to attend the Clinic were made to the number of	1947	1948
The number of appointments kept was	7465	7481
The number of mouths made healthy was :	6814 (91.1%)	6746 (90.1%)
	1207 Specials	1423 Specials
	4539 Routines	4130 Routines
	Total	Total
	5566	5553

Orthodontia Cases : 174 cases—126PX, 69TX and 43 appliances.
* Including 22 half-days with the Mobile Dental Clinic.

Table 14.
REFERRED FOR TREATMENT—AGE GROUPS

Sex	4 yrs.	5 yrs.	6 yrs.	7 yrs.	8 yrs.	9 yrs.	10 yrs.	11 yrs.	12 yrs.	13 yrs.	14 yrs.	15 yrs.	16 yrs. +	Total
Boys	157	238	340	325	364	372	386	309	272	246	140	8	—	3157
Girls	166	277	297	363	363	366	366	336	326	298	207	25	11	3401
Totals	323	515	637	688	727	738	752	645	598	544	347	33	11	6558

Table 15.
TREATMENT—AGE GROUPS.

Sex	4 years		5 years		6 years		7 years		8 years		9 years		10 years		11 years		12 years		13 years		14 years		15 years		16 years +		Total	
	Routine	Casuals	Routine	Casuals	Routine	Casuals	Routine	Casuals	Routine	Casuals	Routine	Casuals	Routine	Casuals	Routine	Casuals	Routine	Casuals	Routine	Casuals	Routine	Casuals	Routine	Casuals	Routine	Casuals	Routine	Casuals
Boys ...	98	107	171	106	191	90	230	68	272	66	267	50	245	54	184	29	180	29	126	21	83	17	10	10	3	2	2060	649
Girls ...	92	100	179	148	199	113	229	94	253	74	251	67	202	47	172	31	164	27	174	30	113	21	18	9	24	13	2070	774
Totals ...	190	207	350	254	390	203	459	162	525	140	518	117	447	101	356	60	344	56	300	51	196	38	28	19	27	15	4130	1423

Section 5
FOLLOWING UP.

When a child is found to be suffering from a physical defect the parents are so notified either verbally or by circular-letter and are advised to secure treatment without delay. A record is kept of all such children, who are then followed up by the School Nurses to ensure that the appropriate treatment is obtained.

Table 16.
WORK OF THE SCHOOL NURSES.

	1	2	3	4	5	Totals
VISITS TO SCHOOLS :						
1. (a) No. of Visits re Cleanliness	139	152	103	130	103	627
(b) No. of Visits re Infectious Diseases ...	—	1	3	1	—	5
(c) No. of Visits for Other Reasons ...	2	19	—	2	—	23
Totals	141	172	106	133	103	655
2. No. of Children Inspected :						
(a) Re Cleanliness	9658	13012	9151	8190	5770	45781
(b) Re Scarlet Fever	—	—	128	—	—	128
(c) Re Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Re Other Infectious Diseases	35	637	—	121	—	793
(e) Re Other Reasons	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	9693	13649	9279	8311	5770	46702
3. Cleanliness Inspections :						
(a) No. of Children Clean	8271	10325	7553	6668	3466	36283
(b) No. of Children with Nits or Pediculi...	1387	2687	1598	1522	2304	9498
Totals	9658	13012	9151	8190	5770	45781
HOME VISITING BY SCHOOL NURSES :						
Concerning :						
(a) Uncleanliness	62	44	44	20	81	251
(b) Defects found at Routine Inspections	637	754	627	903	446	3367
Totals	699	798	671	923	527	3618
NO. OF CLINIC SESSIONS ATTENDED :						
	197	196	150	162	208	913

The School Nurse responsible for No. 5 District is a joint School Nurse and Health Visitor,

Section 6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

With a view to preventing the spread of infectious diseases all home contacts are excluded from school for periods which vary according to the nature of the disease.

Information as to the incidence of non-notifiable infectious diseases is obtained from teachers, welfare officers, sanitary inspectors, health visitors and parents.

The following table gives particulars of cases occurring in school children during 1948.

Table 17.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OCCURING IN THE SCHOOLS OF THE BOROUGH

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Chicken Pox	Mumps	Erysipelas	Primary Pneumonia	Cerebro- Spinal Meningitis	Acute Polio- Myelitis	Enteritis	Food Poisoning
January	10	1	1	39	74	277	—	1	—	—	—	—
February	7	—	2	24	54	188	—	2	1	—	—	—
March	17	—	—	18	62	127	—	—	—	—	—	—
April	23	2	6	33	26	20	—	2	—	—	—	—
May	22	—	12	35	44	8	—	2	—	—	—	—
June	19	—	34	15	28	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
July	35	2	25	13	36	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
August	6	—	18	8	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
September	12	—	22	18	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October	7	2	140	11	44	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
November	2	1	172	12	20	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	6	1	234	13	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	166	9	666	239	434	627	—	11	1	2	—	—

January proved to be the peak month of the Mumps outbreak, with 277 notifications. The incidence gradually subsided until July, when one case only was notified.

In October, however, as in 1946, an outbreak of Measles occurred, and in the last three months of the year 546 out of the years total of 666 cases of Measles were notified.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever was again low (166 school children). The disease was of mild type and there were no deaths.

Nine cases of diphtheria were notified in school children during the year. Of cases notified 2 only proved to be suffering from the disease. This compares with 106 cases in 1937 and 125 cases in 1938.

This continued low incidence fully justifies the energetic measures which have been and are being taken and which have resulted in all but a small percentage of the children attending Blackburn Schools being immunised against Diphtheria.

The parent of each child admitted to school is invited to have the child immunised and, once a year each school is visited by a doctor and nurse to carry out the immunisations of children whose parents have given consent.

An important factor in the success of the immunisation scheme in Blackburn has been the continued and wholehearted co-operation of Head Teachers and their staffs.

Section 7

HANDICAPPED PUPILS.

Ascertainment. The arrangements for the ascertainment of pupils requiring special educational treatment as defined by the Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service Regulations made under the Education Act, 1944, are as described in my Annual Report for 1946.

The establishment of the National Health Service has not affected this work, except that reports under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944, are now made to the Local Health Authority, which, since 5th July, is the Local Authority for the purposes of the Mental Deficiency Acts.

Table 18.

SUMMARY OF HANDICAPPED PUPILS, END OF 1948.

CATEGORY	Type of School Attending						Not Attending any School		TOTAL	
	Special Day		Special Residential		Ordinary School					
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Blind	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
Partially Blind ...	6	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	8
Deaf	—	—	5	3	—	—	—	1	5	4
Partially Deaf ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
Delicate	84	89	1	—	—	—	—	—	85	89
Diabetic	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Educationally Sub-Normal ...	—	—	3	1	55	27	1	3	59	31
Epileptics	—	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	4	1
Maladjusted ...	—	—	1	—	7	2	—	—	8	2
Physically Handicapped...	1	1	1	—	5	6	3	2	10	9
Speech Defects	—	—	—	—	61	23	—	—	61	23
Multiple Disabilities ...	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	3	1
Total (All Categories) ...	91	98	15	8	136	58	4	6	246	170

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL TREATMENT

Details of provision made in respect of each category of handicapped pupils are given below.

Blind Pupils. The Education Committee make arrangements with various special residential schools for the admission of suitable cases. At the end of the year, one boy and two girls were in the School for the Blind, Hardman Street, Liverpool, and one boy was in the Homes for the Blind, Preston.

On being discharged from Special Schools, certain blind pupils are admitted to the Local Workshops for the Blind for training and subsequent employment.

Partially Blind Pupils. The Education Committee maintain a special school for Partially Sighted Pupils in the Corporation Park. The children are selected for admission by the consultant Oculist who re-examines them twice yearly during their attendance.

At this school all close work is reduced to a minimum and the reading of ordinary school books is prohibited; the only reading allowed is from letter press, often prepared by the children themselves, each letter being not less than 1" in height. Oral work occupies a large proportion of the curriculum and comprises nature study, history and geography, object lessons, description by the teacher of important current events, followed by a discussion in which the children take part.

Handicraft work is encouraged, the work being such as will develop manual dexterity without demanding close ocular attention.

Physical exercises are modelled on the Ministry's Curriculum with the proviso that exercises demanding strain and violent movement are avoided. At the end of the year 6 boys and 8 girls were in attendance at the School.

Deaf Pupils. Several Residential Special Schools for the deaf in different parts of the country admit suitable cases from Blackburn. At present there are 4 boys and 4 girls in the Royal Cross School for the Deaf, Preston, and one boy in the St. John R.C. Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Boston Spa.

Partially Deaf Pupils. At present no provision is made for the special educational treatment of partially deaf pupils, only two of whom appear on the register. It is anticipated that the projected hearing survey will reveal a sufficient number of suitable pupils to warrant the establishment of a special class in the Borough for their special educational treatment.

Delicate Pupils. At the end of the year one boy was in a Special Residential School for delicate children in Ventnor, Isle of Wight.

The Blackburn Education Committee provides for the special educational treatment of this class of pupil at the Open-Air School at Black-a-Moor, which was opened in August, 1939, and which has proved a most valuable acquisition.

A School Nurse is in full-time attendance at the school and the Assistant School Medical Officer visits once each week.

One hundred and eighty-one children were on the register at the end of 1947, 49 were admitted and 55 discharged during the year ; thus 175 children were in attendance at the end of 1948. The average duration of attendance of those discharged was two years ten months, and the average increase in weight was 16.7 lbs.

The reasons for the admission of the 230 children who attended during the year were as follows :—

Subnormal Nutrition	...	...	...	...	79
Anaemia	...	...	...	...	18
Debility	...	...	...	...	35
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	51
Asthma	...	...	...	...	22
Tuberculosis	..	..	...	...	6
Bronchiectasis	...	...	...	...	2
Paresis	...	...	...	...	2
Other conditions	...	...	...	...	15

Pupils are selected for admission by the Assistant School Medical Officer, who re-examines them on admission to the school and at three-monthly intervals thereafter.

Each child is supplied with milk twice a day, is provided with a hot mid-day meal and there is a daily rest period of one hour. All the children receive emulsion or extract of malt every day, whilst about 100 children were given iron tonic. Ten children have been treated with fersolate tablets twice a day, whilst three children have undergone courses of adexolin.

Minor ailments are treated by the School Nurse who also superintends the weekly shower bath of each child. Every child is weighed at least once a month.

The School Nurse also carries out regular cleanliness inspections. Compared with other schools in the Borough the standard of cleanliness is high.

During the year, 22 children found to have nit infestation and 3 children with head lice were treated in school by the application of D.D.T. Hair Emulsion.

The Physical Training Organiser visits once a week to give remedial exercises.

The attendances during 1948 were satisfactory. The average attendance was 85.5 per cent : the highest weekly percentage of average attendance being 92.4 per cent.

Diabetic Pupils. There is only one diabetic pupil on the register at present.

Educationally Subnormal Pupils. At present no provision is made by this Authority for the Special Educational treatment of Educationally Subnormal Children.

At the end of the year there was a total of 93 educationally subnormal pupils on the register. One boy is in the Beacon School, Lichfield, whilst two children, one boy and one girl, are in Ongar Residential School, Essex, and Allerton Priory Residential School, Liverpool, respectively.

One boy is in Pontville R.C. Special Residential School, Ormskirk, whilst a girl, who is also deaf is in the Royal Cross School for the Deaf, Preston. Eighty-two were attending ordinary schools and four were not at school. All these children require special educational treatment and the absence of facilities for such treatment is a matter for concern.

Although the Residential School which the Education Committee propose to provide at Longridge will, to some extent, alleviate the position, there will remain an urgent need for a special day school and for special classes for this type of pupil.

During the year seventeen pupils were reported to the Local Authority for the purposes of the Mental Deficiency Acts.

Epileptic Pupils. Arrangements are made for the admission of epileptic pupils to various residential schools. At the end of the year one boy was at the David Lewis Home for Epileptics, Warford, one boy was at the Home for Epileptics, Maghull, and one girl was at the Soss Moss School for Epileptics, Manchester. Two boys who suffer from varying degrees of epilepsy are in attendance at ordinary schools.

Maladjusted Pupils. An increasing number of maladjusted pupils require to be dealt with. Many of them receive appropriate treatment at the Child Guidance Clinic but a proportion of them show evidence of emotional instability or psychological disturbance and require special educational treatment in order to effect their personal, social or educational re-adjustment.

There are 13 pupils of this type at present on the register but, owing to the shortage of Special Residential School accommodation, it has been possible to secure the admission of only one of them to such a school; the remainder, including three who are also educationally subnormal, continue to attend ordinary schools.

Physically Handicapped Pupils. This category includes those pupils, not being pupils suffering solely from a defect of sight or hearing, who by reason of disease or crippling defect cannot be satisfactorily educated in an ordinary school or cannot be educated in such a school without detriment to their health or educational development.

At the end of the year there was a total of 19 pupils in this category, 11 of whom were attending ordinary schools, 2 at the Open Air School, and 5 at no school. The remaining case, a transfer from the Lancashire County Council, is in the Bethesda Home for Crippled Children, Colwyn Bay.

Pupils suffering from Speech Defects. Circular 179 of 1948, issued by the Ministry of Education, and dealing with the effect of the National Health Service Act upon the School Health Service states :—

“ Speech therapy for school children must be carried on in the closest association with the work of the schools and will therefore remain the responsibility of the Local Education Authority.”

Speech defect is a crippling handicap and one which, particularly so in the case of a sensitive child, cuts off the sufferer from many pleasures which he would otherwise enjoy, and may thus change a happy child into a solitary, suspicious, introvert. Further, in later life the handicap may well restrict the the choice of occupation and place him at economic disadvantage.

For these reasons speech therapy should play an important part in any well-organised School Health Scheme and, until the retirement of Miss Drummond in March, this was the position in Blackburn.

Miss Drummond was in charge of the speech therapy clinic for 12 years during which time 350 children passed through her hands.

The appended table sets out the result of the treatment of 130 of these cases discharged from the clinic. (It is regretted that full figures of discharges during the war years (1940-1945) are not available.)

Cured	....	....	39.23 per cent.
Much improved	....	....	42.31 per cent.
Slightly improved	....	....	4.61 per cent.

The remaining 13.85 per cent. covers children in whom there are no change or who left school or the town before treatment was completed.

When the class was closed in March, there were 39 children on the Register. Particulars of cases dealt with during the first three months of the year are set out below.

Table 19.

REMEDIAL SPEECH CLASS

	Stam- merers	Lispers	Cleft Palate	Others	Total	Enuresis
No. on register at beginning of the year	23	2	1	15	41	—
No. admitted during the year.....	2	1	—	3	6	—
No. discharged or left during the year	3	—	1	4	8	—
No. on register at the end of the year	22	3	—	14	39	—

Table 20.

RESULT OF TREATMENT OF CHILDREN DISCHARGED DURING THE YEAR

	Stam- merers	Lispers	Cleft Palate	Others	Total	Enuresis
Cured	2	—	—	3	5	—
Much improved	1	—	1	1	3	—
Slight Improvement	—	—	—	—	—	—
Condition unchanged, left town, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	—	1	4	8	—

It is very unfortunate that it has proved impossible to appoint a successor to Miss Drummond ; speech therapists are much sought after and are in short supply.

The Education Committee hope to fill the gap by arranging for a teacher to be given leave of absence with pay whilst she takes an approved course in speech therapy.

Section 8

MISCELLANEOUS.

Co-operation of Parents. The presence of parents is encouraged at both School Medical Inspection and at the various clinics. For the most part the parents have been appreciative of the work of the Department and have followed the advice given by the staff.

Co-operation of Teachers. The assistance given by the teachers in every aspect of the school medical work has been invaluable. Much additional work has been thrown upon them and I am grateful for their continued co-operation.

Co-operation of the School Welfare Officers. To the School Welfare Officers I must express my thanks. The information gained by them in the course of their visits to homes is passed to the School Health Service and greatly facilitates the work of the staff.

Their co-operation in obtaining attendance of children at Clinics is most valuable and has done much towards securing treatment of defects.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Twelve cases were reported to the Society by officials of the School Health Service. Four were for general neglect and one was for assault and ill-treatment. Three cases were reported for failure to attend the clinic for eye testing or failure to obtain glasses after examination by the Ophthalmic Surgeon. All three cases were followed up until the children concerned had received treatment. The four remaining cases were supervised until satisfactory improvement was effected.

I would like to express the thanks of the School Health Service **staff** for the unfailing help rendered by the Society's Inspector, Mr. King.

Licensing of Children for Entertainments during 1948.

27 children, licenced to perform on tour, appeared at the Grand Theatre. Their lodgings, dressing room accommodation, licences and school records were all examined by the School Welfare Officers.

Permission was also given to 198 children of school age to take part in various kinds of entertainments such as Ballet Dancing, Religious Plays, etc., given for charitable purposes.

Employment of Children and Young Persons. Shortly before the school leaving age is reached juvenile employment cards are completed by the Assistant Medical Officer, who examined 399 children for employment during 1948.

213 children (190 boys and 23 girls) were newly licensed (after a special medical examination) for employment out of school hours. The majority are engaged in the delivery of milk, newspapers, groceries, etc. In 8 cases certificates were refused on account of the children being medically unfit.

Deaths of School Children, 1948.

Tuberculous Meningitis	..	...	...	...	1
Heart Disease	..	...	...	...	1
Accidents	..	...	...	...	4
Other Diseases	...	...	...	..	8

Nursery Classes. There are 32 Nursery Classes in the Borough for the accommodation of children between the ages of 3 and 5 years. Inspection findings of children in attendance at these classes are incorporated in the "Entrant group" of routine medical inspection.

The number of children in attendance at the end of the year was 1,240.

The School Nurses visit each Nursery Class at frequent regular intervals.

Physical Education. I am indebted to the Director of Education for the following report on physical education in the schools.

Rapid developments have taken place in Physical Education during the year 1948 after a comparative lull during the war years. All our men teachers have now returned from H.M. Forces with the resulting improvement in the staffing of schools. The development in infant schools has been most marked owing to the introduction of improved climbing apparatus, Bristol scrambling nets and Essex apparatus. In addition, the provision of Primary School Portable Gymnasia in some of our Junior Schools has filled a long felt gap after the high standard reached in Infant Departments. Blackburn was one of the first three Authorities in the country to introduce this new apparatus into its Primary Schools.

Every effort has been made to obtain new gymnasia for our Secondary Schools and several possibilities have been explored. It has been decided to convert Barton Street premises into as good a gymnasium as possible with

portable and fixed apparatus. Plans are well advanced for this scheme. The Technical High School have made full use of the Harrison Gymnasium for physical training classes for both boys and girls. Several nearby schools utilise the Harrison Gymnasium when it is not used by the Technical High School.

With the introduction of the new Education Act, further developments in physical education are advocated. The Education Committee are well aware of the present limited facilities for physical education and have made adequate provision for extended facilities in the Development Plan.

It is worthy of note that throughout the year some 3,500 organised games of football, cricket, etc., have been played at Pleckgate Playing Fields alone. In spite of the constant hard wear and tear the playing fields have been kept in very good condition. New pavilions have been provided at Troy and Pleckgate to meet the ever increasing demands of our Schools and Youth Service.

Several Football Competitions have been arranged by the Blackburn Schools' Athletic Association to meet the demands of Junior and Senior boys. Netball Competitions have been arranged on similar lines for girls. Facilities for tennis were obtained in the Parks and also at the Crosshill Tennis Club. The Parks Committee have granted schoolchildren the use of two tennis courts in the Corporation Park for netball during organised games periods.

A two-days' course for Men Teachers in Physical Education was held during February, 1948. This was in the nature of a Refresher Course for teachers who had returned from H.M. Forces. In addition, it gave teachers an opportunity of visiting other schools and gaining a knowledge of the type of work and progression in physical education in Infant, Junior and Secondary Schools.

Remedial classes have been continued at the Blackamoor Open Air School throughout the year.

The attendances at the Harrison Gymnasium for the year 1948 have been maintained and a pleasing feature is the increase in attendances at the Senior Girls' Classes.

The Swimming season has been quite successful and once again Blackburn has gained the highest number of life saving awards in the N. Lancs. Area.

Life Savings Awards.

Elementary	Inter- mediate	Bronze Medallion	Bar to Bronze Medallion	Instructors Certificate	TOTAL
207	100	75	38	3	423

Number attending Baths :

Weekly average :

Boys 50,097

2,784

Girls 21,672

1,204

Milk Supplied in Schools. During the year, 2,250,124 bottles (each bottle containing $\frac{1}{3}$ pint) were supplied to children free of charge, including 60,878 bottles to children attending Blackamoor Open Air School.

Provision of Meals for School Children. During 1948, a total of 1,618,970 meals were supplied in all schools.

I am indebted to the Director of Education for the following comments and menus for summer and winter which are followed, as far as supplies of food allow, in the school kitchens, including the Blackamoor Open Air School Kitchen.

During 1948, an average of over 700 meals per day have been supplied free of charge, whilst an average of 8,000 meals per day have been supplied on payment.

Menus. The menus in schools during the year 1948 have been in line with the Ministry of Education's recommendations. The central kitchens have, so far as has been possible kept to a three week's menu prepared by the Organiser which is varied according to the climatic conditions. The full amount of rationed foods has been taken up by all the kitchens and all food supplies have, on the whole, been satisfactory.

Dietary for Winter Months.

1st week.

1. Stewed Steak, Potatoes,
Peas or Beans.
Fruit or Syrup Sponge.
White Sauce.
2. Cottage Pie, Gravy.
Carrots, Swedes or Turnips.
Bakewell Tart and Custard.
3. Roast Meat, Boiled Baked Potatoes.
Mixed Salad and Dressing.
Milk Pudding and Jam Tart.
4. Meat Pasties (Cornish),
or Meat Roll, Gravy.
Blanenange and Jelly, or
Fruit Mould and Jelly.
Biscuit.

2nd Week.

1. Corned Beef, Potatoes, Gravy.
Cabbage or Sprouts.
Milk Pudding and Jam.
Stewed or Dried Fruits.
2. Hot Pot or American Hash
Peas, Beetroot.
Fruit Slices, Custard.
3. Brown Stew, Dumplings.
Potatoes, Carrots, Swedes.
Marmalado Sponge, White Sauce.
4. Roast Meat or Ham.
Boiled or Baked Potatoes.
Mixed Salad.
Trifle.
5. Fish, Cheese, or Vegetable Pie.
Potatoes, Green Vegetables.
Eve's Pudding.
Custard.

3rd Week.

1. Steak and Kidney Pie.
Potatoes, Gravy.
Peas, and Carrots.
Stewed Fruits, Custard.
Biscuits or Rock Buns, etc.
2. Steamed Meat Roll, Potatoes.
Gravy, Cabbage.
Jam Tart, Custard.
3. Irish Stew or Hash.
Potatoes, Peas.
College Pudding, White Sauce.
4. Sausage and Gravy.
Potatoes, Beans in Tomato.
Fruit Flan.
Custard.
5. Roast Meat, Potatoes, Gravy.
Mixed Salad.
Jam Roly Poly.

Dietary for Summer Months.

1st Week.	2nd Week.	3rd Week.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brown Stew. Boiled potatoes. Root vegetables. Milk pudding and fruit or Jam tart or Valencia Mould. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Corned Beef (sliced), Gravy. Mashed potatoes. Pulse vegetables. Steamed sponge pudding and jam sauce. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Haricot mutton, dumplings. Potatoes, Root Vegetables. Orange jelly with sponge cake and custard.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Beef Galatine, Gravy. Mashed Potatoes. Salad with salad dressing. Chocolate Steamed pudding. Custard. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Shepherd's pie, Gravy. Root vegetables. Jam or syrup tart and custard. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Cornish Pasties, Gravy. Roast or boiled potatoes. Salad. Baked or raw apples and custard or Stewed fruit and cornflour mould or milk pudding.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Meat or vegetable pasties, Gravy. Boiled potatoes. Pulse vegetables. Eve's pudding and custard. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Minced roll (hot or cold), gravy. Boiled potatoes, Salad with dressing. Orange jelly with fruit, or gingerbread or Crunchies, or milk pudding. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Roast meat, Gravy. Roast or boiled potatoes. Green vegetables. Fruit pudding (suet pastry) with white sauce, or Jam roll and custard.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Roast meat, Gravy. Boiled or roast potatoes. Green vegetables. Sponge cake with stewed fruit or orange jelly. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Roast meat or ham, gravy. Roast or Boiled potatoes. Green vegetables. Trifle. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Beef Steak and kidney pudding, Gravy. Boiled potatoes, Root Vegetables. Apple Amber pudding or Milk pudding or Stewed Fruit and custard.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Baked Fish or Salmon Mould, Parsley Sauce. Mashed potatoes. Spaghetti or beans in tomato. Bakewell tart or fruit charlotte, custard. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Cheese Pie or Vegetable and Cheese Hot Pot. Boiled potatoes. Cauliflower or Swedes. Cornflour Mould with Rhubarb tart or Tart with stewed fruit in season. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Fish Cakes and parsley sauce, or Sausage and Gravy. Potatoes, Beans or spaghetti in tomato. Fig or Date pudding and custard.

Table 21.

CHIEF CAUSES OF EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL.

Condition	Exclusions carr. fwd. from 1947	Exclusions	Returns	Still excluded Dec. 1948
Ringworm—Head	—	—	—	—
„ Body	—	—	—	—
Nits and Vermin	—	5	5	—
Impetigo	1	1	2	—
Scabies	—	2	2	—
Small Pox	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever.....	8	168	170	6
Measles	3	518	398	123
Diphtheria	3	9	11	1
Whooping Cough	33	170	191	12
Chicken Pox	8	390	397	1
Mumps	61	178	239	—
External Eye Disease	—	—	—	—
Sore Throat	—	4	4	—
Other Causes	—	2	2	—
Ear Defects	—	—	—	—
Total	117	1447	1421	143

The number of exclusions by reason of infectious diseases includes those from the same household who have been excluded as contacts.

Table 22.

Heights and Weights 1948

Year of Birth	BOYS			GIRLS		
	No.	Average Height in Inches	Average Weight in Pounds	No.	Average Height in Inches	Average Weight in Pounds
1933	131	61	100	158	60½	102
1934	—	—	—	31	61	103
1935	—	—	—	—	—	—
1936	171	55	74	212	54½	72
1937	312	53½	70½	353	53	70
1938	—	—	—	—	—	—
1939	—	—	—	—	—	—
1940	—	—	—	—	—	—
1941	2	44¾	42½	6	44	49
1942	76	44½	45½	64	43½	43
1943	258	42	41¼	257	41½	41½
1944	288	40¼	38¾	256	39½	36½
1945	82	38	35½	78	37¼	31¾

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS.
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1948

Table 23.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups:

Entrants	...	...	...	...	1458
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	1097
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	259
Total	...	...	...	...	2814

Number of Periodic Inspections 140

Grand Total 2954

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	5131
Number of Re-Inspections	...	...	...	7215
Total	...	...	...	12346

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

*Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to
Require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).*

Group	For defective vision (ex'd'ng squint)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table 24	Total individual pupils
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Entrants	—	228	181
Second Age Group	80	94	135
Third Age Group	16	16	31
Total (prescribed groups)	96	338	347
Other Periodic Inspections ...	14	20	32
Grand Total	110	358	379

Table 24.

A. RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease (1)	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		No. of Defects		No. of Defects	
		Requiring treatment (2)	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment (3)	Requiring treatment (4)	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment (5)
4.	Skin	16	10	12	—
5.	Eyes —a. Vision ...	110	13	136	8
	b. Squint ...	33	18	25	3
	c. Other ...	3	5	—	2
6.	Ears —a. Hearing ...	4	5	6	—
	b. Otitis Media ...	3	16	3	1
	c. Other ...	4	10	4	—
7.	Nose or Throat	70	244	185	22
8.	Speech	3	17	9	4
9.	Cervical Glands	14	105	8	11
10.	Heart and Circulation ...	32	56	20	—
11.	Lungs	16	87	42	3
12.	Developmental—				
	a. Hernia ...	—	2	1	—
	b. Other ...	5	7	4	1
13.	Orthopaedic—				
	a. Posture ...	16	27	3	—
	b. Flat Foot ...	24	6	18	2
	c. Other... ..	56	80	23	2
14.	Nervous System—				
	a. Epilepsy ...	—	1	2	1
	b. Other ...	2	13	19	—
15.	Psychological—				
	a. Development ...	3	3	5	1
	b. Stability ...	—	3	12	—
16.	Other	55	18	100	5

B. CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED
DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants	1458	692	47.5	738	50.6	28	1.9
Second Age Group	1097	571	52.0	515	46.9	11	1.1
Third Age Group	259	104	40.2	150	57.9	5	1.9
Other Periodic Inspections ...	140	69	49.4	67	47.8	4	2.8
Total	2954	1436	48.6	1470	49.8	48	1.6

Table 25.

TREATMENT TABLES

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table 27).

(a)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year
SKIN—	
Ringworm—Scalp—	
(i) X-Ray treatment. If none, indicate by dash	—
(ii) Other treatment	1
Ringworm—Body	18
Scabies	89
Impetigo	88
Other skin diseases	79
Eye Disease	61
(External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to hospital).	
Ear Defects	100
(Treatment for serious diseases of the ear (<i>e.g.</i> operative treatment in hospital) should not be recorded here but in the body of the School Medical Officer's Annual Report).	
Miscellaneous	1236
(<i>e.g.</i> minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.).	
Total	1672

(b) Total number of attendances at Authority's minor ailments clinics 7201

(6) Fillings :	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	2846
	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	135
							—
	Total	...	...				2981
(7) Extractions :	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	986
	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	7102
							—
	Total	...	...				8088
(8) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction		...	...	...	...		872
(9) Other Operations	(a) Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	1155
	(b) Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	24
	Total (a) and (b)						1179

Table 27.

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.

NOTES.—A statement as to the arrangements made by the Local Education Authority for the examination and cleansing of infested pupils should appear in the body of the School Medical Officer's Report.

All cases of infestation, however slight, should be recorded.

The return should relate to individual pupils and not to instances of infestation

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorized persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	45781
(ii) Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested...	...	...	...				9498
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944)...	...	...	...	...			—
(iv) Number if individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)...	...	...	...	...			—

CONTENTS.

SECTION 1—CO-ORDINATION	7
„ 2—MEDICAL INSPECTION	10
„ 3—TREATMENT	16
„ 4—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.....	28
„ 5—FOLLOWING-UP	31
„ 6—INFECTIOUS DISEASES	32
„ 7—HANDICAPPED PUPILS	34
„ 8—MISCELLANEOUS	40
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RETURNS	48

	<i>Page</i>
Anaemia	20
Attendances, School	9
Blind Pupils	34, 35
Causes of Exclusion from School	46
Chest Complaints	15, 49
Child Guidance	23, 51
Cleanliness	14
Cleansing Centre	26
Clinics	16
„ list of	6
Clothing	14
Condition, General	14, 50
Consultant Physicians and Surgeons	16, 20, 25
Co-ordination	7
Cost of School Health Service.....	8
Deaf Pupils	34, 35
Deaths of School Children.....	41
Delicate Pupils	34, 35
Dental Inspection and Treatment.	28, 51
Developmental	15, 49
Diabetic Pupils	34, 36
Dietaries	44
Diphtheria Immunisation	6, 33
Ear, Nose and Throat.....	6, 14, 49
Education Committee.....	3
Educationally Subnormal Pupils.	34, 37
Effect of National Health Service	5, 16, 17, 18, 23, 28, 38
Employment of Children	41
Entertainments, Licensing of Children for	41
Epileptic Pupils	34, 37
Exclusion from School, Causes of	46
Executive Council	18
Eye Troubles	14, 18, 48
Following-up	31
Footwear	14
General Condition	14, 50
Handicapped Pupils.....	34
Hearing	14, 49
Heart Defects	15, 49
Heart, Rheumatism and Anaemia Clinic	6, 20
Heights and Weights	47
Hygiene, School	7
Immunisation against Diphtheria	33
Infectious Diseases	32
Inspection Clinic	6, 17
„ Dental	28, 51
„ Medical	7, 10, 48, 49
Lung Defects	15, 49

	<i>Page</i>
Maladjusted Pupils	34, 37
Meals for School Children	43
Medical Inspection	7, 10, 48
„ Treatment	16
Milk in School	43
Ministry of Education Returns.....	48
Minor Ailments Clinic.....	6, 17, 50
National Health Service, Effect of	5, 16, 17, 18, 23, 28, 38
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	40
Nervous Conditions	15, 49
Nose and Throat	14, 49
Nursery Classes	41
Nutrition	13, 14, 50
Open Air School	35
Orthopaedics	15, 25, 49, 51
Orthoptic Clinic	5, 6, 19
Parents, Attendances at Routine Inspection	11
Parents, Co-operation of	40
Partially Deaf Pupils	34, 35
Partially Sighted Pupils.....	19, 34, 35
Physical Education	41
Physically Handicapped Pupils.....	34, 37
Physiotherapy	25
Population, School	8
Psychological Defects	14, 49
Regional Hospital Boards	16
Remedial Exercises	6, 25
Returns, Ministry of Education.....	48
Rheumatism	20
Rickets	15
Routine Inspection	10
Routine Inspection, Summary.....	14, 15
School Children Deaths.....	41
School Nurses, Work of.....	31
School Welfare Officers, Co-operation	40
Skin Diseases	14, 49
Special Educational Treatment	35
Special Schools	19
Specialist Services	16
Speech Defects	5, 14, 34, 38, 49, 51
Strabismus (Squint)	5, 6, 19, 49
Teachers, Co-operation of	40
Throat Defects	6
Tonsils and Adenoids	6, 22, 51
Treatment, Dental	28, 51
Treatment, Medical	16, 48, 50
Tuberculosis	14
Ultra Violet Light Clinic	6, 19
Uncleanliness	11, 12, 14, 26, 52
Vision	6, 14, 18, 48
Weights	47

